



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CONTENTS

3 February 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Further Reaction to Yeltsin, Bush Initiatives	1
Shevardnadze Welcomes Initiatives [INTERFAX]	1
Japan Appreciates Proposal [TASS]	1
Commentator Backs Nuclear Shield [PRAVDA 31 Jan]	1
Observer on Bush Cuts [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Jan]	2
Differences Between Packages Outlined [Moscow International]	3
Arbatov on Defense Doctrine [Moscow TV]	4
Retargeting Seen Increasing Tensions [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 1 Feb]	4
Nuclear Scientist Refutes Brain Drain Claims [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 31 Jan]	5

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commonwealth

Preparations for Conference 'In Full Swing' [Moscow Radio]	8
Poll Elicits Comments on Future of Association [INTERFAX]	8

Baltics

Council Session, Nordic Relations Viewed [Vilnius Radio]	8
--	---

Central Asia

Most Area Republics Favor Single Armed Forces [POSTFACTUM]	10
--	----

Military

Army Officers' Coordinating Council Meets	10
13 Documents Discussed [INTERFAX]	10
Appeal Adopted [TASS]	10
Presidium Elected; Meeting Ends [INTERFAX]	10
Black Sea Fleet Status Still Questioned	10
Sevastopol 'Main Base' [Kiev Radio]	10
Resubordination 'Inexpedient' [INTERFAX]	11
Chernavin on Fleet [SOVIETSKIY PATRIOT Jan]	11
Housing Poses Adaptation Problems for Soldiers [INTERFAX]	12
*Construction of Varyag Aircraft Carrier Halted [SELSKAYA ZHIZN 31 Jan]	12
Civil Control of Armed Forces 'Illusory' [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Feb]	12

Political & Economic

Communists Hold Closed Joint Plenary Meeting [POSTFACTUM]	13
Shevardnadze Interviewed on Changing Role [LA REPUBBLICA 26-27 Jan]	14
Bank Chairman Reports 1991 Financial Results [INTERFAX]	16

Media

TASS Evening Press Review for 31 Jan	16
TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Feb	16
Newspaper To Be Withdrawn From Retail Sale [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Feb]	18

RUSSIA

Yeltsin's Foreign Tour Continues

Addresses United Nations, Meets With Leaders [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Feb]	19
Summit 'Justified Our Expectations' [TASS]	21
On Scientists, Nuclear Security [Moscow TV]	22
Black Sea Fleet, Ruble Discussed [TASS]	23
Meets With Li Peng, Mitterand [TASS]	23
Meets India's Rao, Japan's Miyazawa [TASS]	24
Signs Declaration on Children [TASS]	24
Further on Yeltsin, Delegation's U.S. Visit	24
Previews U.S. Visit [TASS]	24
No Longer 'Potential Adversaries' [TASS]	25
'Camp David Declaration' Issued [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Feb]	26
Meeting With Businessmen Previewed [IZVESTIYA 1 Feb]	27
Addresses Congressional Leaders [TASS]	27
Churkin Discusses U.S., UN Reaction [London TV]	28
Kozyrev Remarks on 'Notable Events' [TASS]	29
CNN Interviews Kozyrev on U.S. Aid [TASS]	29
Delegation Addresses Missiles Reports [Moscow Radio]	30
Gaydar on Improving Economy [Radio Rossii]	30
Shaposhnikov on CIS-U.S. Future [TASS]	30
Yeltsin Meets With Canadian Prime Minister [TASS]	30
Joint Declaration Signed [TASS]	31
'Five-Year Agreement' Reached [TASS]	31

International Affairs

Lukin, Rogachev Appointed New Ambassadors [INTERFAX]	31
Further on Lukin's Position [TASS]	32
Kozyrev on Black Sea Economic Talks [TASS]	32
Withdrawal From Baltics 'Now Under Control' [TASS]	32
Withdrawal To Begin Feb, Mar [INTERFAX]	32
Japan's Miyazawa Supports Early Settlement [TASS]	33
Germany's Moellmann, Delegation Arrive [Berlin ADN]	33

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees Kremlin Official Residence [Russian TV]	33
Decree Date 'No Contradiction' [INTERFAX]	34
'Little-Known Facts' About Yeltsin Cited [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Feb]	34
Retail Kiosk Sales of Newspaper Halted [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Feb]	35
Papers Withdraw From 'Soyuzpechat' [SELSKAYA ZHIZN, etc.]	36
20 Publications Fall Victim to Market Reforms [Radio Rossii]	37
Poltoranin Comments on 'House of Russian Press' [Moscow TV]	37
Media Official Criticizes Subsidy Cuts [Russian TV]	37
Burbulis on Prices, Yeltsin's Arms Proposal [Russian TV]	37
Ryzhkov Urges 'Intellectual Opposition' [TASS]	39
Yeltsin Aide Cited on CIS Concept's Formulation [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Jan]	39
Russian Party Rally Stakes 'Claim on Power' [TASS]	39
Trade Union Official Denies Communist Influence [Moscow International]	40
Free Democratic Party Council Opens Meeting [TASS]	40
Minister Denies Nuclear Physicists' Emigration [INTERFAX]	41
Further on Remarks [TASS]	41
Institute Gauges Yeltsin's Popularity [TASS]	41
Gaydar Cited on Budget, Debt, Other Issues [TASS]	41
'Certain Corrections' in Reform Planned [TASS]	42
Deputy Finance Minister Discusses Prices [Russian TV]	42
Draft Budget for First Quarter Assessed [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 23 Jan]	44
Stage of 'Catastrophic Price Increases' Passed [Moscow TV]	45

National Income Reportedly To Drop 14 Percent	[INTERFAX]	45
Yavlinskiy Warns of Dangers of Hyperinflation	[TASS]	45
Economists Assess Anti-Inflation Effort	[Moscow TV]	46
Oil Revenues To Purchase Unrefined Sugar	[Radio Rossii]	46
Customs Committee Outlines New Regulations	[Russian TV]	46
Government Endorses Subsidies for Agriculture	[Moscow International]	47
62 Percent Doubt Monetary Reform Assurances	[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 26 Jan]	47

Supreme Soviet

Burbulis Cited on 1 Feb Parliament Session	[Russian TV]	47
Parliament's 'Duty' To Criticize Government	[TASS]	49
Khasbulatov, Economists Discuss 'Adjustments'	[INTERFAX]	49
Address to Ukrainian Parliament on Fleet	[IZVESTIYA 3 Feb]	49
Validation of Crimea's Transfer To Be Examined	[IZVESTIYA 3 Feb]	49
Deputy Chairman Discusses Issue	[Russian TV]	50
Subcommittee Chairman Cited	[Russian TV]	50
'Interparliamentary' Group Holds First Meeting	[TASS]	52
Official Says Budget 'Doomed to Failure'	[TASS]	52
Deputies To Pass New Constitution in Apr	[TASS]	52
Opposition With 'Serious Alternative' Needed	[PRAVDA 29 Jan]	53
Parliament To Ratify Treaty With Lithuania	[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Jan]	53
Poll Shows Increased Support for Yeltsin	[Moscow TV]	54

Regional Affairs

Tatar Congress Adopts Independence Law	[POSTFACTUM]	54
Adopts Language Law	[TASS]	55
Group Rejects Congress Decisions	[INTERFAX]	55
President on Congress Role, Function	[INTERFAX]	55
Tatar Leaders Oppose Democratic Congress	[TASS]	56
Yeltsin, Sobchak on Food Shortages, Policy	[London TV]	56
Sobchak: More Aid Needed To Keep Democracy	[Moscow TV]	57
Komi Supports Yeltsin Economic Decree	[POSTFACTUM]	57
Chairman Sees Role for Moscow Soviet	[KURANTY 31 Jan]	58
Yakut Deputies Oppose Secession Decisions	[INTERFAX]	59

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on CIS Role, Russia	[London TV]	60
Kravchuk Sends Telegrams on Fleet Commander	[Kiev Radio]	60
Kravchuk Stresses Claim to Black Sea Fleet	[Kiev Radio]	61
Fokin Rejects Russian Financial Decision	[TASS]	61
Fokin Appeals For USSR Debt Adjustment	[Kiev International]	61
Kravchuk Meets With European Bank Chief	[TASS]	62
Defense Minister Meets Polish Delegation	[TASS]	62
Rukh Urges UN To Delay Russian Membership	[INTERFAX]	62

National Affairs

Minister Says Armed Forces Formed Legally	[Radio Rossii]	62
Supreme Soviet Approves Military Legislation	[POSTFACTUM]	63
Briefing Held on Crimea, Defense, Media Issues	[Moscow Radio]	63
President Names Military District Leaders	[Radio Rossii]	63
Radetskiy on Tank Army Transfer	[POSTFACTUM]	63
Border Defense Committee Chairman Appointed	[URYADOVYY KURYER Jan]	63
Further Appointments	[URYADOVYY KURYER Jan]	63
Kiev Military on Fuel, Ammunition Shortages	[POSTFACTUM]	64
Officers' Union Meets, Discusses Security	[Kiev Radio]	64

National Guard Deserters To Be Sent Back [Kiev Radio]	64
Defense Ministry Commercial Center Established [TASS]	64
Kravchuk Comments on Ethnic German Resettlement [Berlin ADN]	65
Ministry Says Economy in 'Critical Position' [INTERFAX]	65
Presidential Decree Raises Minimum Wage [URYADOVYY KURYER Jan]	65
State Regulation of Pricing Introduced [INTERFAX]	65
Measures Taken To Back New Currency [Moscow International]	66
Lvov's Chornovil on Kravchuk's 'Power' Party [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 31 Jan]	66
Leaders 'Fanning Psychosis' [INTERFAX]	67
Crimea Expresses 'Great Anxiety' Over Tension [Moscow Radio]	67
Crimea Petitions For Fleet Commander's Removal [Moscow TV]	67
Sevastopol Appeals to Kravchuk, Yeltsin [Kiev Radio]	67
Society Leader on Ukrainian Diaspora, Aid [HOLOS UKRAYINY 22 Jan]	67
Supreme Council Approves National Anthem [ZA VILNU UKRYINU 18 Jan]	68

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Popular Front Calls For National Referendum [TASS]	69
Parliamentary Group Defines Servicemen's Status [INTERFAX]	69
Businessmen Dissatisfied With Government [Moscow TV]	69
Intelligence Services 'Undermining' Republic [POSTFACTUM]	69
Signed Protocols Establish Foreign Relations	69
Ties With Vietnam [TASS]	69
Relations With CFSR [Moscow TV]	70
Relations With Egypt [TASS]	70
Document Signed With Portugal [Minsk Radio]	70

Moldova

Snegur Departs for World Economic Forum [TASS]	70
Druc To Run in Romanian General Elections [INTERFAX]	70
National Army Expected To Number 20,000 [INTERFAX]	70
Licensing of Commonwealth Exports Resolved [INTERFAX]	70
Diplomatic Relations Sought, Established	71
Ties With PRC Discussed [Kishinev Radio]	71
Romanian Diplomats Sent [Kishinev Radio]	71
Plans With Bulgaria [INTERFAX]	71
Protesters Accuse Romania of Supplying Weapons [Bucharest Radio]	71

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Backs NKAO Peacekeeping Force [Radio Rossii]	72
Prime Minister: NKAO Should Be Independent [TASS]	72
Minister To Make NKAO Into 'Fortress' [Radio Rossii]	72
Mutalibov Turkish Tour, NKAO Attack Linked [ARMENPRES]	72
Legislative Commission Rejects Russian Treaty [INTERFAX]	73
Eastern Border Guard Chief Appointed [Yerevan Radio]	73

Azerbaijan

Reportage Highlights Renewed NKAO Violence	73
NKAO Appeals to UN [Yerevan Radio]	73
Foreign Ministry on 'Undeclared War' [Baku Radio]	73
President Urges 'Decisive' Action [Moscow International]	74
CSCE To Send Mission [TASS]	74
Russia Offers To Mediate [Moscow TV]	74
Hostilities Continue [TASS]	74

NKAO Leader Leaves for Moscow [INTERFAX]	75
Baku Rally Urges Tougher Measures [Baku Radio]	75
Demonstrators Demand Army Mobilization [Radio Rossii]	75
'Soviet' Army Said Involved [Russian TV]	75
Colonel on UN Peacekeeping Plan [TASS]	76
Fighting Continues; Stepanakert Shelled [Yerevan Radio]	76
National Security Council Meets [Moscow Radio]	76
Conflict Enters 'Decisive Stage' [Russian TV]	77
'Balanced' Observer Group Urged [AFP]	77
Mutalibov in Switzerland To Attend Forum [Radio Rossii]	78
Republic To Join Economic Cooperation Group [Tehran IRNA]	78

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Intends To Continue 'Struggle'	78
Claims Legal President [IZVESTIYA 31 Jan]	78
Urges 'Insubordination' [Russian TV]	79
Interview 'Week Old' [Russian TV]	80
Gamsakhurdia Said 'Gravely Ill' [INTERFAX]	80
Supporters Rally in Tbilisi [Berlin ADN]	80
Tbilisi 'Order' Issued [Tbilisi Radio]	80
Rallies, Counter-Rallies Held [TASS]	81
More Demonstrations [INTERFAX]	81
Railway Rally Results [Tbilisi Radio]	81
Grenade Hurled [INTERFAX]	82
35 Injured; 2 Dead [TASS]	82
Reinstatement Demanded in Poti [INTERFAX]	82
Supporters Cross Abkhaz Border [Russian TV]	82
Abkhazia Not Gamsakhurdia Stronghold [TASS]	82
Routes Still Blocked [Moscow International]	83
'Warming Relations' With S. Ossetia Noted	83
Calm in Tskhinvali [TASS]	83
Stabilization Tops Agenda [Moscow Radio]	83
'Ready To Hold Talks' [TASS]	83

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Troop Withdrawal Negotiations Begin in Tallinn	84
Initial Information Given [Moscow Radio]	84
Army Property Claimed [BALTFAX]	84
Consensus Reached [TASS]	84
Premier Stresses 'More Realistic' Program [BALTFAX]	85

Latvia

Riga, Russia Issue Communique on Troop Talks [Riga Radio]	85
Riga Signs Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [Riga Radio]	86
China Protests New Relations With Taiwan [Riga Radio]	86

Lithuania

Vilnius, Russia Communique on Troop Talks [TASS]	86
Leaders Comment on Talks [Vilnius Radio]	87
Government Claims Soviet Military Equipment [BALTFAX]	88
Nuclear Power Station Shuts Down Reactor [BALTFAX]	88
Computer Virus Used [Warsaw PAP]	89

Further Reaction to Yeltsin, Bush Initiatives

Shevardnadze Welcomes Initiatives

OW3101165292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1613 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Former Soviet Foreign Minister, Co-Chairman of the Democratic Reform Movement Eduard Shevardnadze has welcomed the Russian and U.S. presidents' initiatives on arms cuts. In a statement Shevardnadze stresses that Yeltsin and Bush have proposed plans of resolute actions aimed at further reducing the nuclear threat and promoting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Shevardnadze is convinced that these measures would be a major contribution toward greater strategic stability and international security.

Shevardnadze believes it is essential that other states, in the first place those producing nuclear weapons, make commitments on nuclear and conventional arms similar to those made by Russia.

Japan Appreciates Proposal

LD3101223792 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT
31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo January 31 TASS—The Japanese Government appreciates a very important speech that Russian President Boris Yeltsin delivered on January 29. It was assessed in Japan as an evidence of Russia's positive approach to a broad range of measures in nuclear disarmament and other kinds of disarmament. Deputy Press Secretary of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Sadaaki Numata told a briefing for foreign reporters here on Tuesday [28 January].

He said the Japanese Foreign Ministry strongly hopes that Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be ensuring centralized and strict control over nuclear arms and related technologies and will be fulfilling their obligations in the area of arms control and disarmament.

Numata said Tokyo hopes that the initiatives made by U.S. President George Bush and by Boris Yeltsin will undoubtedly help strengthen global effort in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and thus help contribute to ensuring peace, security and stability in the world.

Observers noted a statement of Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, reflecting the Japanese Government's response to George Bush's proposals. Watanabe said Japan strongly supports this as a courageous measure for nuclear disarmament.

The response of the Japanese Government to the Russian initiatives was more restrained. Asked by ITAR-TASS why the Japanese Government preferred not to publish any official statements this time, Numata said that during a meeting in New York on Friday [31 January], Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will have an opportunity to state directly his positive appraisal of President Yeltsin's initiatives.

The Japanese spokesman rejected inventions that Tokyo's relatively restrained reaction could be a way of expressing Tokyo's displeasure that Yeltsin could not have had a meeting with Michio Watanabe in Moscow on January 27. He said that nothing of the kind was intended. Prime Minister Miyazawa is very much interested to hear President Yeltsin setting out Russia's intentions, he said.

Sources in the Japanese Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS that Bush's and Yeltsin's proposals should be studied in greater detail. It should be noted, specifically, that Russia places greater emphasis on the need for the reduction of sea-launched cruise missiles, and the United States on the need to reduce land-based missiles.

Commentator Backs Nuclear Shield

PM3101172792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "Viewpoint" commentary: "Disarmament Race"]

[Text] Almost simultaneously Washington and Moscow have declared their intention to radically reduce their nuclear arsenals. The packages of large-scale disarmament initiatives set forth by President Bush in his address "On the State of the Nation" and by President Yeltsin in his televised statement "On Russia's Policy in the Sphere of Limiting and Reducing Arms" have, in my view, despite the obvious differences and veiled nuances intelligible only to experts, at least three similar features.

What is, above all, equally characteristic of them is their nontraditional approach to problems over which the sides spent many years conducting endless and fruitless arguments. (Incidentally, it was precisely this out-of-the-ordinary nature that elicited many critical comments which merit careful analysis). Second, the packages of proposals made in Washington and in Moscow are similar in that they combine unilateral steps with initiatives that are designed to be reciprocated. Third, and finally, the new stage of the "disarmament race" is designed, in addition to other tasks, to strengthen mutual trust under conditions of growing alarm throughout the world over the fate of the nuclear potential of the former Soviet Union. Now that the leaders of the two major nuclear powers have placed their cards on the table in advance, they will be able to conduct a dialogue at Camp David not in secret, but taking fully into account the comments both of their own peoples and of the world community.

The first chapters of the disarmament chronicle remind us that unilateral steps are, as a rule, rewarded—albeit sometimes in quite other areas of the overall process. This was the case with our moratorium announced in August 1985. Although the Americans did not wish to abandon nuclear tests entirely—neither then nor now that we have once again suspended them for a year—the good example helped to overcome the deadlock.

Last September, President Bush himself decided to give a boost to the "disarmament race." He announced that the United States was unilaterally renouncing tactical nuclear weapons sited in other countries. It is easy to explain the reason for such a unilateral step. On the eve of the breakup of the USSR there was no time left to hold talks lasting many years—this was the case, for example, with intermediate-range missiles. The best way to prompt the former Soviet republics to renounce tactical nuclear weapons and to avoid the fateful consequences of their use in interethnic conflicts was to resort to the force of example.

I believe that Washington's actions were justified in this case. According to Secretary of State Baker, tactical nuclear weapons are being dismantled in the Commonwealth countries even more actively than had been expected. Therefore the U.S. Administration has not only allocated \$400 million to assist this process but is also embarking on an exchange of specialists in this sphere with the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Following on from tactical weapons, the U.S. President has evidently decided to use the same method again in order to remove the most formidable weapons from the two largest nuclear arsenals: ICBM's with multiple reentry vehicles. Bush declared that, if the CIS entirely renounces such land-based missiles, then the United States will destroy all its MX (or Peacekeeper) missiles, will leave just one warhead out of three on Minuteman missiles, and, most importantly, will reduce by one-third (i.e. by more than 1,000) the total number of warheads on Trident-2 sea-launched missiles, which previously it had doggedly kept outside the disarmament process.

The desire to accelerate the forward movement by force of example is also apparent in Yeltsin's proposals. It has been declared, in particular, that Russia intends not over seven years but in just three to reduce the number of strategic offensive arms in alert status to the level agreed in the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms. I believe that competent specialists will have to weigh carefully how appropriate our age-old craving "to fulfill the five-year plan in four years" is in this case.

Speaking of proposals designed to be reciprocated, I would single out those that concern the Navy. Russia has halved the number of missile-carrying submarines on combat patrol and is prepared to stop combat patrolling altogether on a reciprocal basis. Russia is also prepared to eliminate all long-range nuclear cruise missiles based at sea if the United States does likewise. It is easy to

foresee that it is on just this question that it will be hardest of all to reduce Yeltsin's and Bush's proposals to a common denominator, since our MIRVed ballistic missiles are based chiefly on dry land, whereas most of the U.S. equivalents are deployed on submarines.

According to U.S. specialists' estimates, the full realization of Bush's proposals would make it possible to reduce the strategic arsenals of the two biggest nuclear powers to 5,000-6,000 warheads. Yeltsin's statement names a still bolder aim: Each side is to retain 2,000-2,500 weapons. Moreover Russia and the United States must not target each other with the remaining strategic offensive arms.

The idea of retargeting Soviet missiles, which was first aired by Yeltsin in an ABC-TV interview, has mostly elicited criticisms from both the Soviet and the foreign public and even caused alarm in many countries. Where will Moscow target its missiles if it has stopped considering Washington its potential enemy?

It cannot fail to be seen, however, that, since the bipolar world has vanished into the past, the nature of the nuclear threat has changed too. Its sources have become less predictable and more numerous. Therefore I do not object to Russia's readiness to create together with the United States a global system of defense against limited nuclear missile attack. It is another matter that our present poverty will hardly enable the Russians to be equitable partners in developing the latest technologies, which with the Americans are generated by the generously funded SDI program.

The initiatives put forward almost simultaneously by the leaders of the two largest nuclear powers are so multifaceted in their composition that even the experts are probably finding it hard to interpret and compare them. But they will undoubtedly be the basis for a businesslike, constructive discussion both within the Security Council 31 January and during the Russian-American dialogue at Camp David 2 February.

Observer on Bush Cuts

PM3101123192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 31 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA observer Sergey Demidov commentary: "Although the 'Cold War' Is a Thing of the Past...."]

[Text] It has long been noted that politics is like seafaring—there can be deceptive lulls. It looks as though the relative lull in U.S. political life prompted by the short four-day time-out which the U.S. Administration took after last week's international coordinating conference on aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States ended, was broken 28 January by President George Bush. Speaking in Congress, he was delivering his traditional annual "State of the Union" address to the American people.

In it the White House incumbent set out the key changes in the structure of America's strategic forces and indicated the military appropriations to be cut. Washington will unilaterally abandon its development [sozdaniye] programs for the new "small" Midgetman ICBM. These will be replaced by an upgrade to the guidance system of the old Minutemen. The Department of Energy has been instructed to abandon production of W-88 MIRVed nuclear warheads for U.S. strategic missiles based on Trident submarines. Orders for the B-2 stealth bomber will be cut by more than two-thirds—from 75 to 20. The Pentagon is also cutting its purchases of MX cruise missiles [as published]. Only 640 will be acquired by the year's end instead of the 1,000 previously planned. Moreover, in the next five years the administration intends, as the President put it, to "save an additional \$50 billion on military spending."

These plans undoubtedly show the United States' desire to keep in step with the times and not lag behind the peace processes which have reached "cosmic" speeds particularly after the collapse of the totalitarian system in the ex-USSR and East Europe. Or, at any rate, they are a declaration of this desire. But, on the other hand, these measures show that Washington is by no means planning to rush headlong into a general "disarmament race."

In my view, the decisions announced by G. Bush were neither an adequate official response to the initiatives put forward by the Russian president in this sphere—as several commentators had forecast—nor a sensation. If only because, first, Boris Yeltsin's 10-point statement "On Russian Policy in Arms Limitation and Reduction" is far wider-ranging than Washington's steps. And it was officially announced almost eight hours after the U.S. President's speech in the Capitol (the Russian leader's statement on this score in an exclusive interview with ABC TV 25 January was far from exhaustive). And, second, G. Bush's message had been prepared long beforehand. But, thanks to skillfully arranged news "leaks," not only its substance but actual details of all the ideas fostered by the White House were known about.

Of course, what observers are calling the "most important speech of Bush's political life" was aimed not so much at an international audience as at the domestic American audience. In most observers' opinion, it was designed to "stem" the catastrophic slump in the Washington administration's popularity. This is if you believe the polls, which have fallen to 43-47 percent—that is, the lowest point in the current President's tenure of the Oval Office. This, understandably, does not inspire his "team" with optimism for the leap year or, as they say in America, the "lame-duck" year when the presidential elections are held.

All this prompted G. Bush to propose a "package of economic growth measures." It is geared to giving a boost to industrial production and business activity this year, when the end of the "cold war" battles means that the United States can afford to stop making sacrifices, as he put it, and no longer have to go without the U.S.

authorities' economic and social programs because of the struggle against communism.

Only the future will tell whether this "medicine" will help to cure the U.S. economy.

As for the measures announced by the President to cut the "nuclear ceiling," they will probably be yet another basis for ensuring that the meeting between our two presidents scheduled for 1 February is fruitful.

At the same time, I think that the only genuine response to the Russian president's 29 January initiatives would be a reaffirmation by the head of the U.S. Administration of his intention to completely eliminate Peacekeeper—as the United States calls the MX nuclear missile—to reduce the warheads carried on each Minuteman to one per missile, to cut the number of warheads on sea-launched missiles by a third, and to convert a considerable number of strategic bombers into conventional bombers in exchange for our Commonwealth's destruction [unichtozheniye] of its ground-launched ballistic missiles with MIRVed warheads. Or, Washington could enter into at least some of these commitments.

So although the "cold war" is indeed a thing of the past, the "ball" is now in the U.S. court, and time is limited—since the current political lull cannot be expected to continue. All the more so as lulls in politics are always deceptive and fleeting.

Differences Between Packages Outlined

LD3101225192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1910 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] President Yeltsin's Package of Proposals on the Reduction of Strategic Weapons came almost at the same time as Mr. Bush's fresh Arms Control Initiatives. A spokesman for the Commonwealth forces command, Gen. Kuklev, has outlined what made the two packages different.

To begin with, said the general, Mr. Yeltsin's proposals are based on the newly emerging atmosphere in relations between Russia and the United States as well as internationally. Gen. Kuklev believes the Russian package states a substantial departure from dependence on military force, something that was conspicuously absent from Mr. Bush's speech. And he quoted Mr. Bush as saying conflicts were over only for the dead and that although other difficulties were past, meaning superpower confrontation, new ones were emerging.

The general pointed to one other statement by the American President, saying there is an irrefutable fact that a show of force as a way of achieving peace is no evil. Gen. Kuklev said those statements indicated America's continued reliance on force, although priorities may have changed.

On all the differences between the proposals of the two presidents Gen. Kuklev explained the following: unlike Mr. Bush's offer, covering only strategic weapons, Mr.

Yeltsin's was much wider, embracing issues such as anti-missile defenses, space, conventional, chemical and biological weapons. Asked if he thought that the two countries' proposals on strategic weapons were symmetric, Gen. Kuklev explained why it was hard to judge it all in terms of numbers.

The Americans say they are ready to scrap a total of 50 MX missiles, carrying 500 warheads, and reduce the number Minuteman III missiles, carrying cluster warheads, in exchange for the total elimination of all Soviet missiles with cluster warheads. Gen. Kuklev said Mr. Yeltsin's failure to clarify what he meant by saying Russia would bring down the number of warheads to 2,000 to 2,500 made it difficult to say exactly where there was symmetry in the proposed cuts. The U.S. proposals provides for a parity of 4,000 to 4,500 warheads on each side but Russia's was more sweeping.

On whether Russian missiles would be retargeted, following Mr. Yeltsin's statement, Gen. Kuklev described it as political. The Russian leader's statement, he said, providing for the remainder of the strategic weapons not to be targeted on Russian [as heard] and American cities was technically viable. The general said experts on both sides should be allowed to come up with relevant recommendations, but overall, the measure would help considering there was a greater strategic stability at any given moment than the permanent feeling of being under gunpoint. Gen. Kuklev reiterated that Mr. Yeltsin's offer must be taken as a political statement for the time being.

Arbatov on Defense Doctrine

LD0202230492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Oostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Feb 92

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] One thing is clear: The Russian president's speech containing proposals for broad arms reductions pursued perfectly understandable political goals, the main one being to reassure the West, which has been alarmed by statements about a threat of new nuclear instability as a result of the collapse of the USSR and internal friction in the Commonwealth of Independent States. But ultimately in the tranquillity of the West lies the fate of our economic reform, the fate of capital investments, the fate of cooperation with the West.

Some information from the sociologists: A public opinion poll specially conducted for our program by the independent Institute of the Sociology of Parliamentarianism under the leadership of (Nugzar Betonelli) has revealed that an absolute majority of people support Yeltsin's decision to change Russia's military doctrine. [video shows screen with question: Do you support the initiative of B.N. Yeltsin for changing Russia's military doctrine? The accompanying diagram indicates that 76 percent replied "Yes," 12 percent "No," and 12 percent "Don't know"]

Thus public opinion is in favor of arms reductions. Some specialists, however, fear that on the kind of scale proposed by Yeltsin, this could be fraught with unpredictable social consequences. Our expert considers that there is such a danger, but that the rejection of conversion is equally dangerous.

[Georgiy Arbatov, Yeltsin adviser, director of the U.S. and Canada Institute] There is such a danger, if we implement an unskillful policy, if we do not take the appropriate measures. But if we do not do it, social shocks will be inevitable for all. Even from the defense point of view, if economic disintegration continues further—and our economic disintegration has been greatly boosted by excessive military expenditure—in our country 40 percent of the fixed capital in industry is in defense; that is impossible, even in wartime that cannot be kept up for long, you understand, and if this continues we face complete collapse. Even if we went over to an ideal market and did everything, that is impossible. There are things that are impossible. In that case no army at all would be possible and no armaments at all. So a choice has to be made.

However, there are things that can be done painlessly. By all means, for one year, two years, three years you can maintain a military enterprise in the defense industry, you can maintain its pay, even indexed—given current inflation, that is essential—but on condition that during this time they carry out diversification.

Retargeting Seen Increasing Tensions

MK0202082092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by Aleksey Arbatov: "Retargeting Missiles: Good Intentions"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the Russian president's declaration that after 27 January our missiles will not be targeted against American cities is the product of a genuine desire to improve relations between the two powers—especially in such an important sphere as their strategic relations, which place both countries in a very special position vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

It is also worth bearing in mind, however, that the two states' strategic relationship is an extremely complex macrosystem of technology, economics and strategy. In the course of 40 years this system has acquired its own developmental dynamic and logic of mutual ties.

Though assuming the targeting of cities has ended, one can nevertheless conclude from the declaration that the territory of the United States remains exposed to attack; otherwise it would be necessary to say which country the missiles have been retargeted against. Most likely there is no such country. First of all, there are more than enough warheads to target all non-American objects worthy of attention (There are now more than 10,000 warheads on strategic offensive systems alone, that is, on missiles and heavy bombers). Secondly, the rest of the world simply

does not have that many targets whose destruction by strategic nuclear systems would be justified from a purely military point of view.

To target wide-open spaces or an ocean is absurd. Why retain these weapons at all in that case; it would be better to eliminate them all, with a first step being to take them off alert [boevoye dezhurstvo], remove their warheads, and store them away individually. If this is not done and the missiles remain in the active arsenal [v boeyevom sostave], then the other side will naturally assume the weapons are, as before, targeted against them—especially since it only takes several hours to retarget (that is, enter new flight instructions) even after targeting has ended. Therefore, control will not be enhanced by ending or changing targeting or by switching targeting from one object to another.

According to available information, strategic forces commanders have interpreted the president's declaration in their own way, and in general, quite logically. If the missiles remain in the active arsenal and on alert and are not retargeted against another state—but are also no longer targeted against American cities—that means they will keep other objects under threat of attack. In particular this means military bases, American missile launch sites, and command centers.

Is this really better than targeting cities? The fact is that the logic of strategic relations is a very stubborn thing. If you target missiles against the missile launch sites and command centers of another state, that means you are planning corresponding operations as well—strikes designed to destroy these targets. Otherwise, targeting them makes no sense. So if you target missiles and command centers, that means you are planning a preemptive strike.

Indeed, a retaliatory strike against a launch site is pointless; they will by definition be empty once they have launched their missiles against you in a first strike. This is precisely how the United States interprets the targeting of Russian missiles against its strategic forces.

If the interpretation of our strategic command takes hold, then the Russian president's declaration will hardly go down in history as a constructive initiative. The result would be that, while wishing to improve the strategic relationship of the two powers, the unintended result could be an added element of tension or, at best, uncertainty. This is why Washington has been slow to respond.

The idea of retargeting missiles from cities to military objects has been proposed before. Robert MacNamara during his service as secretary of defense formulated this idea in 1962 as the so-called "counterforce" strategy. Another defense secretary, James Schlesinger, declared essentially the same thing in 1973 in his "choice of targets" strategy. In both cases, both independent American specialists and Soviet experts interpreted these concepts as plans to launch a preemptive strike with the aim of disarming one's opponent while minimizing damage to oneself from his retaliatory strike.

It is exceptionally difficult to bring something new to this debate. But it is rather easy, by exerting an arbitrary influence on a very complex system through the best of motives, to provoke through the mechanism of mutual ties an end result opposite to that intended.

Nuclear Scientist Refutes Brain Drain Claims

PM3101150092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 92 p 1

[Interview with Professor V. Mikhaylov, leader of the military nuclear program of the former USSR, by correspondent A. Khokhlov; place and date not given; interview is accompanied by photograph of V. Mikhaylov sitting at a table captioned "This is the first time a photograph of this man has been published in our press": "Our Atom Bomb Is Made by 100,000 People"]

[Text] Really secret information is in the possession of 10,000-15,000 nuclear scientists. Information of paramount importance is known to 2,000-3,000 people. These figures were revealed for the first time by Professor V. Mikhaylov, leader of the military nuclear program of the former USSR, in an interview for our correspondent.

[Khokhlov] The Western mass media are sounding the alarm. Any day now our nuclear scientists are going to start leaving for third world countries. Is this a real problem?

[Mikhaylov] In my view it is exaggerated. I am talking about experts in the nuclear weapons area, those who are familiar with military technologies. We do not have a brain drain. I have said repeatedly and am not afraid to repeat: The country's nuclear weapons were and are built by patriots and responsible people. Reports in foreign newspapers alleging that a number of these scientists have concluded contracts in Japan and in eastern countries are not in accordance with reality.

In principle any nuclear physicist could start working in the nuclear sphere. But it would take him a minimum of 5-10 years to achieve any results at all. Provided he is able to experiment, to test his ideas in practice, that is, to carry out nuclear explosions. But it is possible that scientific adventurers are offering their services to third countries....

[Khokhlov] But the danger of scientists leaving the Commonwealth countries has been spoken of by heads of state, H. Kohl, for instance. They are even setting up aid funds for our scientists to persuade them to stay put....

[Mikhaylov] I know there are people in the West who are sincerely worried about the possibility of the proliferation of sophisticated nuclear weapon technologies in the world. On the other hand, I think there are others who are deliberately adding to the fuss in the hope of luring the scientists over to them.

As for the setting up of funds: I have not seen anything concrete as yet. We do not need any support from outside. Our scientists are not going to stand in line waiting for handouts, you can take my word for that. Give us the opportunity to take part in joint projects with the West—on the peaceful use of nuclear and thermonuclear power, the physics of high densities and pressures, strong magnetic fields—and we will find our feet by ourselves and bring benefits to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] in solving the problems of scientific and technical progress. Without injuring our own dignity or Russia's honor.

[Khokhlov] Provided it is not a secret, how many people are working on the development [sozdaniye] of nuclear weapons?

[Mikhaylov] I can give you the figure for the first time: Just over 100,000. Of these, 10,000-15,000 are in possession of really secret information. Information of paramount importance in sophisticated technologies is known to 2,000-3,000 people. The country must not lose their knowledge and their brains, whatever the circumstances. This is the gold reserve of our science, its elite.

[Khokhlov] How much do these people make?

[Mikhaylov] In 1991 the average wage in the sector was 400-600 rubles [R]. From 1992 salaries have gone up 90 percent, but that is not real money today. Abroad, specialists at this level are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars a month. All the same, I am confident that the scientists will not "defect" to the West, still less to Third World countries.

[Khokhlov] Is that confidence founded on official restrictions on their leaving?

[Mikhaylov] The official services are still in operation and there are still restrictions on the departure of people who possess valuable information. The period of "delay" is still the same—5-10 years. At the moment this is taking place in accordance with the laws of the Soviet Union. I think a similar Russian law will be adopted soon. But you cannot keep people back solely by official means.

Hope has sprung up since a recent meeting between nuclear scientists and B. Yeltsin. A decision was adopted to set up a Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation. The president promised his support.

[Khokhlov] What about military atomics? The test ranges are silent.

[Mikhaylov] The question of test ranges was also discussed at that conference. Boris Nikolayevich took an understanding view of the fact that without experiments, nuclear physics will come to a standstill. Although he thinks that talks should begin with the Americans in the near future on limiting the underground nuclear tests carried out annually.

[Khokhlov] The Russian Government has cut military spending by more than a factor of seven. How will this affect the military nuclear experts?

[Mikhaylov] I don't think the government will "slash" our science budget significantly. It may even be increased. The problem today is that the nuclear weapon sector has enough work for decades. Under the international accords that have already been concluded, Russia is to destroy a significant quantity of nuclear weapons. This can only be done by those who manufactured them, which means us. Like it or not, the money will have to be found for this if we don't want to turn the whole country into one big Chernobyl.

I am sure that Russia must also keep its finger on the pulse of military nuclear science. Incidentally, this is not contrary to the doctrine of reasonable sufficiency. If there is any breakthrough in the weapons field by other states, Russia must know how to respond with a breakthrough of its own. This is all the more necessary in that the number of countries that possess nuclear weapons will increase markedly over the next 10 years and the situation could become unpredictable.

[Khokhlov] The "nuclear club" has already gotten bigger. Instead of a single USSR, there are four new members—Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

[Mikhaylov] In 1968 the Soviet Union signed the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. A single republic should be heir to the nuclear shield. Only Russia has the potential to lay claim to this. Why not Ukraine or Kazakhstan? The whole of the nuclear weapon complex, the sector's entire scientific and technical potential, is on Russian territory. Creating something similar in the other republics would take colossal expenditure and time.

[Khokhlov] Yeltsin has stated that Russia will trade in weapons. Does that include nuclear weapons?

[Mikhaylov] No. That referred only to conventional arms. Trading in hydrogen bombs is madness. Or in nuclear technologies.

The nuclear weapons complex could help Russia in a different way—through active involvement in conversion. In 1991 in this sector one in three staffers of research institutes and assembly-line plants was working on tackling conversion tasks. In five years it is planned to switch some 60 percent of capacities of the nuclear military complex to national economic tasks.

[Khokhlov] How quickly will Russia be able to rid itself of its redundant nuclear arsenal? How much will this cost?

[Mikhaylov] In money terms, R1.5-2 billion [rubles] at 1991 prices. In terms of time, at least 10 years.

It must not be forgotten that both Russia and the United States have a significant interest in reducing the time taken to destroy nuclear bombs and warheads.

I have spoken with U.S. senators about the need to build special dumps for the storage of plutonium and highly enriched uranium from weapons. Then they could be used jointly in the nuclear power industry. It turned out that the Americans also have an interest in this. Such a unique opportunity cannot be missed. If we fail to exploit it, we will find ourselves talking bitterly about the \$400 million that could not be found to resolve the

problem of substantially reducing the nuclear arsenals of the two biggest nuclear powers.

I hope that in the course of the forthcoming meeting between the Russian and U.S. Presidents such an accord will be reached, and the 21st century will be safer for mankind than the century now coming to an end.

Commonwealth

Preparations for Conference 'In Full Swing'

LD0202043492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0510 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Preparations for the conference of the leaders of the sovereign states of the Commonwealth, which is to open in Minsk are in full swing. It will clarify the fate of our Armed Forces. Our correspondent, Tatyana Chemodanova, has met Lieutenant-General Leonid Grigoryevich Ivashov, chief of the General Affairs Directorate of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Chemodanova] The Army and the Navy—and I shall probably not be mistaken if I say all the people, too—are today awaiting the promised decisions of the Conference of the Heads of State which is coming up in Minsk on 14 February. Could you tell us what issues will be at the center of the discussions among the leaders of the Commonwealth states?

[Ivashov] The system of legislation currently in force has already ceased to correspond to present requirements, and the independent states have made a decision that the USSR's laws have no practical force on their territory. Therefore, we need new political decisions that must be secured in legal terms by appropriate documents. The package of documents presented for discussion in Minsk is intended to become the legal foundation guaranteeing the defense capability of the Commonwealth states and the organizational development of the military in the new conditions.

[Chemodanova] Leonid Grigoryevich, what is in the package of documents which you have mentioned?

[Ivashov] I shall give just the main documents that have been presented. They include an agreement on the powers of the supreme bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States on defense matters. This means it is necessary to define which supreme political bodies are authorized to deal with the most important matters, which issues will be tackled at the level of the Council of Heads of State, for example, and at the level of the Council of Heads of Government, and which issues will be delegated to the commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces and to the body which is being set up, the Council of Defense Ministers of the Independent States.

We intend and hope that immediately after that document, if it is adopted, a statute will be approved concerning the High Command of the CIS Armed Forces. We also hope that an agreement will be reached on the status of the strategic forces and the general purpose forces. We have also submitted a proposal to define the legal basis on which the armed forces will operate today. It is proposed that until a decision is made, the old statutes of the USSR will apply. This is necessary to avoid destroying the command system of the Armed Forces altogether. A proposal has also been put forward

on the procedure for performing military service. In our opinion, the procedure should be uniform on the territory of all Commonwealth states. A proposal which is very topical today has been submitted, dealing with the procedure and principles for a state's financing of defense.

[Chemodanova] What sort of procedure is it?

[Ivashov] The formula proposed by the high command of the CIS Armed Forces is that the principle of financing will be based on an integrated indicator, which combines a state's population and its national income, and the amounts or the proportionate contributions to the defense budget are determined on the basis of these indicators. Undoubtedly, the decisive financial burden will be borne by the Russian Federation. [end recording]

Poll Elicits Comments on Future of Association

OW0302075192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0658 GMT 3 Feb 92

["Viewpoint": "Does the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Have a Future?"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In January the National Public Opinion Studies Center polled 1,597 people in Russia, 517 in Ukraine and 240 in Kazakhstan on whether they believed the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] had a future, reports the news agency DATA.

28% of the respondents in Kazakhstan, 8% in Russia and 7% in Ukraine predict a deeper integration and stronger ties between the CIS states.

39% in Russia, 29% in Ukraine and 28% in Kazakhstan believe that the Commonwealth is facing a lengthy search for accord.

20% of Russian and Ukrainian respondents and 10% of Kazakhs expect worsening conflicts.

22% of Ukrainians and 16% of Russians and Kazakhs predict the breakup of the new union.

17% of Russians, 21% of Ukrainians and 18% of Kazakhs would not answer.

In general, Russians and Kazakhs are more optimistic than Ukrainians.

Admissible margin of error: 3%.

Baltics

Council Session, Nordic Relations Viewed

LD3101053692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The first session of the interparliamentary body of the three Baltic states is taking place in Riga.

Today, the participants in the session met with representatives of the Soviet Army deployed in the Baltic republics. Our correspondent Zenonas Miksys reports from Riga:

[Miksys] [passage omitted] I have succeeded in approaching Colonel General Valeriy Mironov. A talk took place. We looked into each others eyes, expressed principal views. On the whole, the talk was useful.

[Begin recording] [Miksys] And now?

[Mironov, in Russian] One has to work. We must talk often and make wise decisions. All problems remain. The interests of the states, the interests of the policies of these states, of the economy of these states, military problems, personal problems.

[Miksys] I understand. But, when do you think these problems will be resolved?

[Mironov] Let us not get ahead of ourselves. Next week intergovernmental delegations [will start work] on negotiations between the republics. Probably, they will dot the i's. Let us wait. [end recording]

[Miksys] What do the parliamentarians themselves think? Clearly, this meeting has been constructive and the questions have been discussed in a positive manner.

I am speaking with a member of the Assembly Presidium itself, deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, the esteemed Albinas Januska.

[Januska] I think that this meeting was very important, indeed. I would like to point out, first of all, that this meeting was organized by the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly itself, as much as by the commission—the Foreign Affairs Commission, which considered as one of its most important points the problem of the Army's withdrawal. Yesterday, other [word indistinct] discussed it very little. Today's meeting with the other [words indistinct] with even six generals of all the principal branches of the Armed Forces within the Northwestern Army. Well, I think, it was very important indeed for the commission itself, as well.

Most importantly, I think, as I have told other deputies, the positions have been clarified. In reality, positions were accepted from one side and the other. Of course, in the words also of the generals, they are protecting Russia's interests. Undoubtedly, certain notable differences exist. However, we have formulated the principal problems. It was clarified under whose jurisdiction the Northwestern Army belongs. This was a problem. Colonel-General Mironov said as the Russian defense committee representative Lopatin who spoke after him, stated very precisely, this army is now under Russia's jurisdiction and [word indistinct] for that army and to negotiate about that army's withdrawal, will have to be essentially with Russia. On 30 January, a delegation, headed by Shakhray, will arrive in Lithuania, to discuss these problems. I consider this clarity to be very important.

Our side also formulated various questions. For example, an opinion was expressed that it is imperative to define this army's status as the status of an army to be withdrawn. A question was raised concerning compensation for arms and equipment seized in 1940. And, also, concerning the problem of real estate which currently belongs to the Army, especially at this point. There were some exchanges marked by a somewhat stricter tone—stricter sentences, with the military leaders, especially, in reference to Latvia and Estonia.

[Miksys] Esteemed Januska, today, immediately following the meeting with the military, Baltic Assembly delegates held a meeting with the Nordic Council members who were participants at this assembly session. How did the meeting progress? What questions were discussed and deliberated?

[Januska] Well in truth the Baltic Assembly itself—its very structure and the composition of its committees is very similar to the Nordic Council's structure and composition—used their experience in many instances. Practically, we are the closest, in this question, and our positions are very close therefore, even though our committees themselves met in practice for the first time today, have met for the first time yesterday and became acquainted for the first time, even those of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. [sentence as heard]

Apparently today they are going to present some type of priority direction in cooperation for the session itself. Nordic Council representatives have indicated a lot of interest and issued direct invitations to their committee meetings and our committee meetings, the presidium meetings with the presidium meetings. We agreed to this immediately today. A joint working group will be established that will coordinate this type of cooperation between the Nordic Council and the Baltic Council. We have agreed that the presidiums will meet at least once a year. The committees apparently would meet even more frequently than once a year.

In accordance with a proposal of the juridical committee that an organ would be established among the Baltic states which would coordinate our legislation, the Nordic Council has proposed to contribute to the establishment of such a body. They referred to this, in a certain sense, as the establishment of a Nordic and Baltic law institute. I think this is not a bad idea.

In addition, a proposal was issued to assemble a somewhat larger seminar which would discuss Nordic and Baltic cooperation. Our delegation representatives were immediately invited to the Nordic Council meeting scheduled for the end of February in Helsinki. Our representatives are invited there. An entire series of events are being prepared. In general, I can say that the meeting that took place, was very useful.

[Miksys] Thank you, very much.

Central Asia

Most Area Republics Favor Single Armed Forces

LD0302111792 Moscow *POSTFACTUM* in English
2125 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] All Central Asian Republics, except Uzbekistan, support the notion of preserving single armed forces and frontier troops, according to Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov.

President Niyazov, meeting on January 31 with officers from the Central Asian Frontier Troops Directorate, doubted success of the negotiations on military issues between heads of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states scheduled for February 14 according to the president, if an appropriate agreement is not signed, Turkmenistan is prepared to sign a bilateral treaty with Russia on single armed forces and frontier troops. The president promised to provide an all-out support to frontier guards in ensuring inviolability of the Republican borders. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Command of the Turkestan Military District.

Military

Army Officers' Coordinating Council Meets

13 Documents Discussed

OW3101145392 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1339 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [31 January] the Coordinating Council of the Army Officers' Assembly discussed 13 documents to be submitted to the heads of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states gathering in Minsk. According to IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, the coordinating council advanced the most interesting and weighty proposals in the area of social and legal protection for servicemen.

The coordinating council is to elect its presidium as a day-to-day working body and its chairman. The speaker of Russia's parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov intends to confer with the presidium and its leader in the parliament building.

Appeal Adopted

LD3101211292 Moscow *TASS International Service*
in Russian 1747 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (TASS)—Representatives of the officers' corps would like to take part in the work of the Minsk CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]

meeting, which will be at the level of heads of state. This was revealed in an appeal to peoples, parliaments, and heads of states of the former USSR, which was adopted today by the Coordinating Council (CC) of the All-Army officers' assembly. Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov has come forward with a proposal to meet the CC Presidium. The meeting, judging by all, will take place in the next few days.

The CC (a public organization representing the professional and social interests of the officers' corps) may become a force which could exert a serious influence on the life of the Armed Forces. At present, it is in the making and is mainly occupied with resolving important organizational issues. Nevertheless, the officers and generals managed to discuss and on the whole approve this afternoon a package of documents prepared by the chief command of the CIS Armed Forces for the Minsk meeting of the heads of member states of the Commonwealth.

The officers have introduced amendments to a number of agreements and have made a number of their own proposals. In particular, it has been proposed that interstate agreements should be concluded on citizenship of servicemen, on guarantees that servicemen will be housed when they are transferred from one state of the CIS to another, and on the transitional period of the reforms in the Armed Forces.

The CC of the All-Army Officers' Assembly concluded its work tonight. Captain (First Rank) Aleksandr Mochaykin has been elected its chairman.

Presidium Elected; Meeting Ends

OW0102020792 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1905 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commonwealth Armed Forces Officers Coordinating Council completed its two-day meeting in Moscow Friday [31 January] with electing its Presidium. First-rank Captain Aleksandr Mochaikin representing the Northern Fleet was elected chairman of the Coordinating Council. Mochaikin is serving as assistant to commander of the [words indistinct] among six other candidates, of whom three are generals.

During the meeting some previously classified information was revealed: (?32.0%) of the Commonwealth Armed Forces are serving in the land force; (?17.6%)—in the Air Force; (?13.3%)—in the Air Defense Force, 10.4%—in the Navy and 6.7%—in the missile force.

Black Sea Fleet Status Still Questioned

Sevastopol 'Main Base'

LD3101125892 Kiev *Radio Kiev* in English
2200 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] In an interview for the *VECHERNI KIEV* newspaper the commander in chief of the Black Sea Navy,

Igor Kasatonov, spoke out for giving Sevastopol a status of the main base of the Fleet within the Strategic Forces of the Commonwealth. According to the admiral the Ukrainian naval forces which are in the process of formation may be stationed in the ports of Odessa [word indistinct] and Izmail.

Resubordination 'Inexpedient'

OW3101203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1905 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, said at a press conference in Sevastopol, Friday [31 January], that he still considered the Black Sea Fleet's re-subordination inexpedient. He also said that the Black Sea Fleet personnel were looking forward to February 14 in hope that the leaders of the sovereign states would find a political solution of the problem.

Admiral Kasatonov said that the Black Sea Fleet's movement to Novorossiysk was out of the question because the control and communication systems, as well as other land installations were in Sevastopol. Commenting on the Ukrainian president's telegram which was addressed to Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, and which demanded that Admiral Kasatonov be removed from his post, Mr. Kasatonov said that he did [as received] accept any accusations. "I only performed my duty, trying to maintain the Fleet's fighting capacity," he said. Mr. Kasatonov also stated that the servicemen who had taken the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine were not persecuted.

Chief of the Black Sea Fleet's press center, Andrey Lazebnikov said, however, that three naval officers had been removed from their posts for getting their subordinates take the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine.

Chernavin on Fleet

92UM0469A Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT
in Russian No 4, Jan 92 p 4

[Article by Captain First Rank N. Belous: "Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy: 'The Navy Is Displaying Fortitude'"]

[Text] Today, all people of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] are concerned about the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

It is quite natural that the events that are occurring in the Black Sea Fleet are causing a sharp reaction among the sailors themselves. The issue, in particular, is that the claims of the Ukraine to the Black Sea Fleet have introduced serious destabilization factors in the formation and very existence of unified Armed Forces of the CIS.

The fate of the Army and Navy, says Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, has to be decided at the very highest level, and only by political means. Let the parliaments of

the independent states of the Commonwealth have their say and decide whether the Armed Forces will be unified, combined, or pulled apart into national headquarters. But the charged situation around the Army and Navy, and the attempts to bring units and ships under one's own oath, is only leading to chaos, discord, and destabilization.

This is the opinion of the commander in chief, the commander of the Fleet, and admirals. But what do rank-and-file officers and seamen think of the situation that has developed? "We have great doubts," considers officer F. Shklyar from Sevastopol, "about the abilities of the present leaders of Russia and the Ukraine to resolve the question of the Black Sea Fleet with historical wisdom. For example, no one in the Ukraine knows: What is the Fleet for, what tasks will it resolve, and how will it be supplied? But... give the us the Fleet! Why? To cut it up for metal and sell it?"

But what do the seamen think, when the question comes up about "privatization," resubordination, and division of the Fleet, what is their opinion, and to whom do they swear loyal service? Seaman V. Zverkov from Krasnoyarskiy Kray is ready to take an oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Independent States, seaman M. Ryzhkov from Sverdlovsk Oblast is ready to take an oath of allegiance to Russia, and senior seaman O. Alekseyenko from Dnepropetrovsk Oblast answered this question briefly: "I will take an oath to the Ukraine."

It is difficult to imagine how a ship whose crew consists of sailors with such contradictory opinions will execute an operational task. Does it really make sense to propose to seamen and officers comprising a single crew, a single combat family on a ship that is ready to repel an enemy and withstand gales, that they take a military oath according to the selection: Ukrainian, Russian, or the one that is prepared by the command of the armed forces of a nonexistent state—the CIS. But under what banner? Under the Russian tricolor, under the Ukrainian gold and blue? Under the Andreyevskiy flag?

Understand, Mr. Politicians—this is not a mere trifle. A person posted at a weapon or the control panel of a missile launcher is not indifferent to the color of the cloth that flutters over the deck of the cruiser or aircraft carrier.

At a news conference V. Chernavin responded with understanding to the desire of each state, if it is situated on a seashore, to have its own navy. What is more, the leadership of the Navy displayed initiative in this respect—it came out with a proposal to render assistance to the Ukraine in the creation of its own navy.

There was a discussion about the naval forces of those independent states that would be capable of resolving such tasks as protecting the state in maritime sectors, fighting against contraband structures, protecting the economic zone, and, naturally, should it be needed,

assisting vessels in distress at sea. Even specific units of the Black Sea Fleet that are based at Izmail, Ochakov... were named.

At the news conference Vladimir Nikolayevich repeatedly referred to the position of Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet. After the meeting in Kiev with President of the Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, the admiral expressed the opinion that "emotions are out of place now. The Navy should remain unified and perform tasks in the interests of the Commonwealth." And once more the symbolic phrase could be heard from the mouth of the flag officer in command of the Black Sea Fleet: "The Navy will not discredit the honor of the flag!"

Yes, the Navy flag is a sacred thing to sailors. Under the protection of the flag they won victories and died in the Gangut, Cheshme, Sinop, and other battles. Allegiance to the flag of the Motherland is a remarkable and immortal tradition of military sailors. It is to such unyielding people that the monument to Kazarskiy on Primorskiy Avenue in Sevastopol is dedicated. The inscription on it reads: "An example for posterity!"

A natural question arises: What will we leave as an example for posterity? A wrecked and disfigured Navy whose flag is unknown?

Vladimir Nikolayevich emphasized one more thought: Let the politicians, the leaders of the independent states, decide the fate of the Army and Navy. The military should not be dragged into the dispute. The fleet should be engaged in its own work, and the fleet card should not be played by anyone.

A journalist of one very reliable newspaper skeptically and, what is more, simply disrespectfully commented on the Navy as the "legacy" of a collapsed "empire." He declared that he did not understand "why it is necessary to divide the pitiful legacy with such fuss and cries, why the entire population should be involved in shaking out the contents of the trunk, while clearly desiring to play on the national feelings and to drive even a deeper wedge between the people."

Regarding the wedge, I agree that it is unbecoming to play on national feelings—I agree. But concerning the trunk and the rubbish, allow me to take exception. It is hardly possible to categorize as mothballed junk super-modern aircraft carriers, carrying nuclear charges, antisubmarine ships fitted out with the last word in equipment, and also missile-carrying submarines. These are anything but rubbish!

Include the ANT [A.N. Tupolev aircraft] in this rubbish, and he will shake out billions!

Representatives of 70 nationalities, most of all from Russia and the Ukraine, serve on ships and in units of the Black Sea Fleet. In order to preserve the integrity and safety of the Fleet and its combat capability they are unified as never before. "The Navy is displaying fortitude!" the commander in chief said confidently. At the

same time, he referred to a report of the military council from the main base—Sevastopol: "The situation in the Black Sea Fleet," it says, "is healthy as a whole. But the mood of the people is anxious and pessimistic. This is associated with the impulsive and insufficiently considered actions of the Army in general, and of the Black Sea Fleet in particular."

Now, fortunately, the situation on the Black Sea is stabilizing. A sober approach to the problem is taking over, and the interests of both the state as well as of the sailors—officers, petty officers and seamen—are being taken into account. Today, like many centuries before this, military sailors are getting off ships at the Graftskaya pier—in an orderly manner, smart in appearance, and concerned about the fate of the Fleet and the Motherland.

Housing Poses Adaptation Problems for Soldiers

OW3101122392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1050 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] This year the Moscow military district will accept some 100 military units to be withdrawn from the Western and Northern Groups of troops, including the ones that were to be stationed in other Soviet republics. This involves about 20,000 servicemen, over 13,000 families.

Housing is one of the worst social adaptation problems for the servicemen returning home. As many as 11,000 officers and non-commissioned officers needing flats have already been registered in the Moscow military district.

*Construction of Varyag Aircraft Carrier Halted

92P50086A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 31 Jan 92 p 1

[Photo caption under headline "The Varyag Is Still Not Finished"]

[Text] In connection with a suspension of financing, the Black Sea Shipbuilding Plant has halted construction of the next generation aircraft-carrying cruiser Varyag.

Civil Control of Armed Forces 'Illusory'

MK0102132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 2 Feb 92 p 1

[Article by Pavel Felgengauer: "Main Command of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces Is Former USSR's Effective Rightful Successor on Defense Matters"]

[Text] The Union Defense Ministry has become the main commissariat, and republic defense departments are ineffective. The Russian State Committee for Defense Questions is preparing to be wound up. Who then is in control of the Army?

The USSR Armed Forces became an Army without a state 8 December 1991. They lost the Defense Ministry 31 December as it became the High Command of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces. It was 31 December that Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov signed Order No. 1 saying that "as of 31 December 1991 I have assumed the duties of commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces (including the strategic forces and the general-purpose forces)." On the basis of this order USSR deputy defense ministers began to execute "within the bounds of their competence" and "until the question of control of the CIS Armed Forces is resolved" the duties of deputy commanders in chief.

It is quite natural that along with the deputies the directorates, staffs, and companies of troops under their jurisdiction were also transferred to the "new" High Command structures. The USSR Defense Ministry disappeared without a liquidation commission even being set up, as had been the case with other Union departments. The changes at first went unnoticed by anyone, while the historic Order No. 1 was not even published. It was only at the end of January that the phrase "Main Command of the CIS Armed Forces" began to oust the usual "Defense Ministry" in the press from official documents. However, the precise date of the change of name remained unclear. So, the Russian president's decree of 4 January (on allocating plots of land for servicemen) mentioned the nonexistent, as it emerged, "Defense Minister (Comrade Ye. Shaposhnikov)." What is more, many people thought (and still think) that Marshal Shaposhnikov is only commander in chief of the CIS Strategic Forces, whereas in reality his range of competence is far broader.

There are of course grounds for thinking that Order No. 1 was not signed 31 December, but later and then dated in retrospect. This might explain to some extent the confusion as well as the incongruities in President Yeltsin's order of 4 January. At any rate, the fundamental decision that changed the whole system of subordination within the former USSR's military department was ratified by departmental order. After all even if some of the CIS presidents were warned in advance about the formation of the CIS High Command within the former Defense Ministry, the Council of Heads of Commonwealth States (as far as one can judge) did not adopt that decision.

In any event, for two months now the CIS presidents have been unable to adopt any intelligible decisions in the military sphere. At the same time, the former Union's Armed Forces have to exist somehow. So circumstances themselves are urging the military authorities to adopt more and more major autonomous decisions.

The former Defense Ministry was part of the government and at least to some degree under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet (Council of Ministers). The new CIS High Command comes under the jurisdiction of the commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces (Ye.I. Shaposhnikov), while he in turn comes under the jurisdiction of

the collective organ—the Council of Commonwealth Heads of State. If we take into consideration the fact that the presidents are incapable of even agreeing about the length of the day (European Russia and Ukraine are now in different time zones), civilian control over the CIS Armed Forces is quite illusory.

The republic military departments (defense ministries) have only just been set up and are as yet virtually incapable of action (even the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, despite Kiev's efforts). The Russian leadership is not even trying to set up its own military department, which would actually come under the jurisdiction of the lawfully elected authorities. Moreover, over the last few days it has become clear that the existing Russian State Committee for Defense Questions may soon be wound up as being unnecessary.

A quite absurd situation has developed: The Russian State Committee is 6 percent staffed (18 men) and the former USSR Defense Ministry alone (now the CIS High Command) is performing "its [the committee's] tasks." Colonel General Pavel Grachev, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Defense Questions (in the rank of minister of the Russian Federation), is at the same time first deputy commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces. For that reason the following decision seems quite logical: "That the Russian State Committee for Defense Questions be abolished and its tasks temporarily performed by existing CIS Armed Forces High Command structures, which are in practice the rightful successor to the USSR in defense matters" (from the relevant official report).

It must be said that the former USSR has of late had a very large number of rightful successors in different fields, and obviously there is not enough inheritance for all of them. While the heirs are sorting things out at the International Court in the Hague, at CSCE assemblies, or simply, Soviet-style, with fisticuffs, the deceased could suddenly rise from the dead, particularly if one of the rightful successors proves considerably "more rightful" than all the others.

Political & Economic

Communists Hold Closed Joint Plenary Meeting

LD0302052192 Moscow *POSTFACTUM* in English
1450 GMT 30 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] The closed joint plenary meeting of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks (ACPB) Central Committee and Political Executive Committee of the Yedinstvo (Unity) Movement decided not to apply for official registration. Before political situation changes this decision was motivated by the party's all-Union status and consequent impossibility of its registration due to the lack of appropriate bodies.

We base our activities on the USSR Constitution of 1977, said Aleksandr Lapin, advisor to ACPB chairman Nina Andreyeva, in his interview with PF [POST-FACTUM] correspondent on January 29. The plenary meeting decided to oust those members of the Yedinstvo (Unity for Leninism and Communist Ideals) movement who joined the Russian Communist Workers Party or any party other than ACPB, or still consider themselves CPSU members after the latter's dissolution. According to a number of Yedinstvo activists, this decision originated by Nina Andreyeva contradicts to the Yedinstvo rules, which do not link Yedinstvo membership with participation in any political organization. Yedinstvo should not be a pesthouse of bourgeois multi-party system, explained Aleksandr Lapin. He added that only ACPB is a successor of the Marxist-Leninist trend in the CPSU. Tatyana Khabarova, member of the Yedinstvo Political Executive Committee, expelled from it under a pretext of still claiming to be a CPSU member, told PF on January 30 that her opinion of Nina Andreyeva has plunged to the very bottom. Khabarova assessed the plenary meeting as a deliberate provocation aimed at forming of an image of a dyed-in-the-wool stupid Bolshevik, a fanatic and sectarian. According to Khabarova, the split in Yedinstvo has become a matter of fact and by this summer two alternative conferences of Yedinstvo are to be held, one by supporters of Nina Andreyeva and the other by her opponents. Vladimir Yakushev, one of the leaders of the Russian United Front of Laborers and Communist Workers Party, assessed the decisions of the joint plenary meeting as sectarian.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Changing Role

PM3101141692 Rome LA REPUBBLICA
in Italian 26-27 Jan 92 p 6

[Interview with former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze by Fiammetta Cucurnia in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—"There will not be a nuclear civil war, because the atom is a transnational weapon which does not recognize borders." For the first time in many years, the two great friends of international diplomacy—former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—seem to disagree on a crucial judgment. And while Baker is announcing to the world that "a civil war on the territory of the former USSR could turn into a nuclear Yugoslavia," the Georgian ex-minister replied from Moscow that "the four nuclear powers of the new Eurasian Community now confronting each other on the world stage will certainly find a compromise, at least on the arms question." Interviewed by LA REPUBBLICA at the headquarters of the International Studies' Foundation which he heads, Eduard Shevardnadze now speaks with a degree of optimism and explains that despite the serious problems "Russia will succeed."

[Cucurnia] Eduard Ambrosiyevich, what are the real prospects for the new CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] which has been created from the remnants of the USSR?

[Shevardnadze] Until the last minute, I hoped that the transition from the Union to the Commonwealth would happen gradually, with a degree of flexibility. However, it all happened very spontaneously, suddenly, and unexpectedly. And yet I am sure that the Commonwealth will be given real content as trust builds up among the leaders and peoples of the new states. What we have now is an extremely fragile Commonwealth, divided by events, pressures, and even details which create conflict, clashes, and disagreements. This is an unavoidable phase which must be worked through. It is certainly a painful phase, made up of disputes and constant conflicts, which, however, should not degenerate into real, full-scale clashes.

[Cucurnia] So you think everything will be normalized and it is only a matter of time?

[Shevardnadze] The worst thing for the time being is that there is no coordinating body in this Commonwealth to coordinate foreign and economic policy, for instance. In my view, it is ridiculous to destroy that whole network of economic ties created over decades. But to maintain it, it is vital for some form of coordination. And I am convinced that, sooner or later, we will achieve that. But it is rather premature to say this because the republics are at present still looking at each other with suspicion and any joint body strikes them as the reincarnation of the old despotic center.

[Cucurnia] Nonetheless, relations between Russia and Ukraine seem to be deteriorating with each passing day. The latest statements by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk regarding the Black Sea Fleet and the division of the Army seem to be one more step toward confrontation rather than compromise.

[Shevardnadze] If there are serious conflicts between Russia and Ukraine it is because they are two huge states and all the most controversial questions will necessarily have to be settled primarily between them. But, although it is ridiculous, let us assume that the conflicts between Russia and the Ukraine were to get worse, nobody could use nuclear weapons to settle the conflict to their own advantage. I rule that out. The example of Chernobyl demonstrates that. Try to imagine what would happen if a nuclear bomb exploded in Russia or Ukraine.

[Cucurnia] What is your view of the economic reform and the drastic lifting of price controls decided by the Russian leadership?

[Shevardnadze] I have already said that these decisions ought to have been made far sooner, when the country had more reserves. But this is our tragedy. The reform could have been introduced in a much less painful way, using the mechanisms of the old system. But things went differently. The Russian leadership had no choice: Either

they could introduce reform with all the sudden upheavals that brings or they could try to revive the old structures. The current plan is affected by many mistakes and shortcomings, for instance in the fiscal sphere which, far from stimulating production, is prompting entrepreneurs to switch off the machines because the more you produce the more tax you pay.

[Cucurnia] Do you rule out the danger of large-scale food riots?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that if we succeed in getting through these difficult months—February, March, and April—we will start to see the first signs of improvement in the second half of the year. On what do I base my hopes? On the fact that Russia is rich—rich in natural resources, educated people, and highly competent experts. And the military industrial complex itself has a huge potential which can be involved in this process very rapidly. Having said that, I do not rule out the possibility of food riots by the people in the first half of the year. We will then have to see how the harvest goes, and many other things. But, for the time being, there is still great confidence in the leadership.

[Cucurnia] The daily NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA recently published rumors that the Russian interior minister, together with the KGB, is organizing special squadrons to put down any insurrections. What do you think of that?

[Shevardnadze] It is possible that the ministry is preparing for such eventualities but I have no information. At all events, I think that if a decision was made to use force to put down protest, it would be disastrous, not only economically but politically, and would inevitably lead to chaos.

[Cucurnia] What is the state of your relations with Yeltsin?

[Shevardnadze] Good. We respect each other and, from time to time, we speak on the telephone.

[Cucurnia] What do you think of Andrey Kozyrev, the new foreign minister?

[Shevardnadze] I have known him for a very long time. He is an able and reasonable young man, a professional. For the time being he is getting by. So far, he has realized that it is necessary to keep the existing structure of the ministry he heads and he has done so. I hope that he proves equal to the task. However, foreign policy is not causing the country serious problems at the moment.

[Cucurnia] Given the developments in the Soviet situation, do you think you can command a significant share of the vote?

[Shevardnadze] If we take Russia, for instance, I do not think I have a strong electoral base, because to aspire to a key post you have to know the country very well. I know it in a manner of speaking. Russia is big.

[Cucurnia] But you have a prominent public image. You were at Yeltsin's side on the barricades during the putsch.

[Shevardnadze] Yes, but I do not have my finger on the pulse of the situation. I cannot claim a role in the Russian leadership.

[Cucurnia] Immediately after the congress at which your party, the Movement for Democratic Reforms, was formed, Yeltsin said that he would never become a member of it because it was formed in opposition to the Russian leadership team. Is that true?

[Shevardnadze] Our movement is already creating its own structures in the Commonwealth states and also in the republics which have not joined, like Georgia and the Baltic countries. I now know that it has a future in the united democratic space of the former USSR. It will be a kind of Democratic International which will never conflict with the recognized sovereignty of individual states. As regards Yeltsin's judgment, during the founding congress some speakers spoke of the need for an opposition. I think that there were populist leanings to win a certain prestige, speculating on the unpopularity of the economic reform. I was and am opposed to that, although I would not hesitate to criticize the government whenever it made mistakes.

[Cucurnia] A few days ago, Russian television announced that you intend to put yourself forward as president of Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] I have never said that. Partly because Tbilisi has not yet even decided whether or not it is necessary to elect a president. The new parliament will decide that if the situation is stabilized. My task is just that of supporting and helping the men who have fought for democracy in Georgia. It will not be easy.

[Cucurnia] They have not done that in a very democratic way.

[Shevardnadze] That was how things were, there was no choice.

[Cucurnia] Have there already been negotiations with the new leaders? Basically, it is clear to anybody that if you took over the leadership of the country, all Georgia's most serious problems would be solved in a few months: peace with Ossetia, new relations with the post-Soviet Commonwealth and with the world; large investments by foreign enterprises which trust you to bring about economic recovery....

[Shevardnadze] There have not yet been real negotiations for my return to Georgia. Frankly, I must say that people's opinion of me is not unanimous. I have never responded to the slanders which have been published in the local press, but I know that propaganda always succeeds in having the desired effect, at least in part. I am therefore determined to do all I can to help the development of democracy in Georgia and to make its move toward the world community less painful. As

regards a prominent political role, it cannot be me who decides. It is a choice which must be made there, by the people in Tbilisi. If my name is put forward, I will think about it.

Bank Chairman Reports 1991 Financial Results

*OW0102003492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1905 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the International Financial Amalgamation MENATEP Mikhail Khodorovsky has announced in Moscow Friday [31 January] that its 1991 turnover exceeded 75 billion rubles.

MENATEP is one of the five largest banks in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. Its turnover is comparable to those of some Commonwealth countries' central banks.

MENATEP includes 25 commercial banks, insurance companies, specialized investment and foreign trade firms.

Khodorovsky said MENATEP plans to invest mainly in the fuel-energy complex, the conversion of the military industry, the construction and re-construction in the Moscow region.

Media

TASS Evening Press Review for 31 Jan

*LD3101221692 Moscow TASS in English
2142 GMT 31 Jan 92*

["Press Review of Moscow Evening Papers"—TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Lavrenyuk]

[Text] Moscow February 1 (TASS)—Moscow evening newspapers attach major importance to the UN Security Council summit meeting, where, for the first time, 15 heads of state and government—of the Security Council member states gathered to discuss global problems facing the world.

"Of course, Yeltsin is expected to clarify the issue on the fate of the nuclear potential of the former Soviet Union", IZVESTIYA writes. "As for Yeltsin himself, he wants to ensure support for his economic reforms, private and foreign investments and membership in international financial bodies", the paper says.

VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA quotes an excerpt from the Russian president's statement on his arrival in New York as saying: "One can sure say this day will mark a turning point in UN activities and for the world community as a whole".

Disputes between Russia and the Ukraine on the future of the Black Sea Fleet remain one of the key themes

IZVESTIYA is focusing on. The paper reports Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk demanded the dismissal of Admiral Igor Kasatonov from the post of Fleet commander on the pretext that the admiral began to persecute unit commanders and officers who had taken an oath of allegiance to Ukraine and made incorrect remarks with respect to the Ukrainian Government.

IZVESTIYA sharply criticizes the proposed 300-400 percent price increase for newspapers. The proposal comes from the central retail trade-subscribing agency. Currently, the largest publishing houses, including IZVESTIYA, are seeking possibilities to avoid using this very expensive intermediary.

Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy reflects on the country's future in IZVESTIYA, stressing the great role of the intelligentsia in the current reforms. "Today the country is at a cross-roads, the risk is grave as never before, the depression is deep", Rutskoy says. "The intellectuals of each of the Commonwealth states have no right to shirk their duty. Morality and policy are in an unprecedented collision now. Should culture stay aside and serve the "nationalistic idea", we shall be in for agonizing years of turbulent existence".

TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Feb

*LD0102085692 Moscow TASS in English
0823 GMT 1 Feb 92*

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 1 ITAR-TASS—Today's newspapers highlight the United Nations Security Council summit attended by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

PRAVDA, describing this event as "unprecedented", emphasises that it is for the first time that Russia participates in the work of the top body of the United Nations Organisation. This opens up an opportunity the possibility [as received] to refine the peace-making mechanism of the United Nations following the changes that have taken place in the world."

Following the end of the Cold War it is important to make the UN more effective, reaffirm the readiness of the Security Council members to proceed along the road of disarmament and prevent proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons, the newspaper points out.

"The Leaders of All Countries, Unite" is the lead of an article in TRUD by the newspaper's correspondent A. Repin about the UN Security Council summit. Nothing of the kind has happened in UN history before: On January 31 the Security Council held a session at summit level. Why such why the idea of such such a simple thing [as received] has not been thought about over the 46 years of the existence of the United Nations? the journalist queries. But there is proper time for everything.

"The Future of the World Community Is Being Decided Upon" is the headline in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the information of the UN Security Council summit.

Yeltsin made public Russia's new large-scale initiatives in the fields of arms cuts confidence-building measures and arms control, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports.

The initiatives of the Russian president are aimed at not only getting rid of excessive military spending but also at closing the discussion of succession once and for all. Nevertheless questions remain. There is no denying that the programme is good. But will it be supported by other members of Commonwealth states? the newspaper asks.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports the first reaction to Russia's initiatives from Alma-Ata where "Yeltsin's nuclear initiatives have been assessed positively but expressed surprise that there was no counsel with them on this subject."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA focuses on the atmosphere in which the work of the UN Security Council proceeded. The newspaper points out that "the president of Russia was not met by rapturous crowds on the streets of New York. The Cable News Network devoted only several tens of seconds to the arrival of the president of Russia in its newscast. This means that we are at last on a par with the leaders of other world powers, the newspaper emphasises.

Colonel General Matvey Burlakov commander of the Western Group of Troops, (WGT) in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA describes the troops from the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] from Germany.

The 1991 schedule for the withdrawal of WGT units from German territory "was observed" and the withdrawal is proceeding even with a certain margin," he said. Burlakov said military problems in relations between Germany and the WGT "are being tackled in a civilised manner" and relations with the German partners "are on the whole of businesslike nature." He said a large part of WGT forces are not removed to the territory of Russia but are "practically being disbanded."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries a report by its correspondent A. Orlov from a meeting of Coordinating Council of the All-Army Officers Assembly. The council met to discuss urgent problems of the servicemen. "Our job is to put pressure and urge both the leadership of the Armed Forces and the heads of state to show common sense to uphold common interests, not only the ethnic interests," Colonel Ruslan Aushev, member of the council, told the newspaper.

Who is in control of the CIS Army? Publicist Pavel Felgengauer, reflects in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on. [sentence as received] The Union Ministry of Defence has turned into the main committee. Republican defence ministries are ineffective and while the Russian State Committee on Defence Affairs is preparing for liquidation, he observes.

The journalist writes about confusion and indecision in the actions of the main command of the CIS Armed Forces which has virtually become a successor to the former Soviet Union in defence matters.

TRUD analyses the situation on Russia's consumer market which as PRAVDA put it, is agonising. TRUD arrives at a conclusion that "the liberalisation of the market of commodities has dealt a blow not only to customers but as was to be expected, to producers. The findings of sociological surveys show: Public impatience grows with every passing day as the free prices soar, PRAVDA emphasises.

"People supposed that life would not become easier because of the liberalisation of prices but few foresaw that they would find themselves near the poverty line but also below it.

Under the rubric "Once a Month With Gorbachev," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs an interview with the Russian press with the former president of the Soviet Union who agreed to. [sentence as received]

"I quit because I could not take part in breaking up the country," Mikhail Gorbachev said. He stated his support for the disarmament policy of the president of Russia. However, he said, while [word indistinct] in the pursuance of this policy it is necessary that parity be observed "so that there would be no military superiority and even a thought about a military superiority could not occur."

PRAVDA's news analyst Tomas Kolisnechenko examines in the light of rivalry being consigned to history. In an article in today's issue of the newspaper he writes about euphoria brought about in the world by the statements of Russia and the United States on nuclear disarmament issues. His opinion is however, that Washington and Moscow do not act on a par.

Nowadays U.S. security is based not on a nuclear balance but control over nuclear forces disintegrating the Soviet Union. "Danger to America emanates not only from our strength but our weakness, enabling the United States to build up its military might," Kolisnechenko believes.

"It is not without interest to note how the Russian diplomacy and CIS leaders would regard all that. Shall we keep silent and dance to the tune of the 'elder brother'

a sort of a new 'centre' which has shifted to Washington?" PRAVDA's news analyst queries.

Newspaper To Be Withdrawn From Retail Sale

*LD0302100192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 1*

[Editorial collegium announcement: "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Not Being Sold"]

[Text] Distributors have demanded that we increase the newspaper's retail price 300-400 percent. The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial collegium has so far not consented to do this. Therefore as of 1 February KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA will be temporarily withdrawn from retail sale.

We invited all those who want to help sell the newspaper to telephone 257-21-82.

Yeltsin's Foreign Tour Continues

Addresses United Nations, Meets With Leaders

PM0302110692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 3 Feb 92 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Text of Yeltsin speech delivered in New York on 31 January under the headline: "Ready To Continue Partnership: B.N. Yeltsin's Speech at the UN Security Council Session"]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman!

Esteemed Security Council members!

Esteemed Mr. Secretary General!

This summit meeting of the Security Council, the first in history, on the political Olympus of the modern world, is an event of great and extraordinary significance.

As the 20th century draws to a close the world is living through a time that inspires new hopes and new anxieties in people. The age-old process of the quest for truth and insight into what the future holds for humanity seems to be getting its second wind.

Now, perhaps for the first time in history, there is a real opportunity at last to put an end to despotism and dismantle the totalitarian order, in whatever form it may exist.

I believe that after inconceivable tragedies and colossal losses, mankind will reject this legacy. It will not allow the 21st century to bring new suffering and deprivations to our children and grandchildren.

A process of profound change has already begun in various spheres of life, and above all in the economy.

This is not only a private matter for peoples and states. It is a common human problem. After all, an economy mutilated by ideological diktat and built contrary to common sense is the main material basis of totalitarianism.

A profound awareness of this link has prompted the Russian leadership to embark on a most difficult economic reform. We have resolved upon this in a country where for many decades an all-out war was waged against economic interests.

I am grateful to the world community for its support of our efforts and for the understanding that not only the future of Russia's citizens, but to a great extent the fate of the entire planet depend on the success of the reforms.

I am also grateful to Russians for their staunchness and patience. It is largely thanks to them that the world community is breaking away from the horrors of the past.

Democracy is one of the major assets of human civilization.

At all times and in all states there have been people who stood up to defend it without sparing themselves. The people of Russia defended democracy at the walls of our Moscow White House.

Now the most difficult part is beginning: the creation of legislative, political, and socioeconomic guarantees of the irreversibility of democratic transformations.

All of us carry a huge burden of mutual distrust. It is no secret that a most profound abyss has formed between the states that were until recently called the superpowers.

This abyss must be bridged. That is the wish of our peoples, that is the will of the presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

The new political situation in the world makes it possible not only to advance original ideas, but to make even the boldest of them practicable.

Our proposals are set forth in messages to UN Secretary General Mr. Butrus Butrus Ghali and U.S. President G. Bush.

Russia believes that the time has come to considerably reduce the presence of means of destruction on our planet.

I am convinced that together we are capable of making the principle of minimum defense sufficiency a fundamental law of life for states in the modern world.

Today there are real opportunities for:

- implementing deep cuts in strategic offensive arms and tactical nuclear weapons;
- resolutely moving toward significant limitations on nuclear testing and even its complete cessation;
- making ABM defense systems simpler and less costly and eliminating antisatellite systems;
- considerably reducing conventional arms and the strength of military contingents;
- ensuring practical implementation of international agreements on the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons;
- enhancing the reliability of barriers to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The problem of experts engaged in the development and production of such weapons, including nuclear scientists, has recently become topical.

No country has the right to use their talents for political gain to the detriment of international security.

Russia is fully aware of its own responsibility and is taking steps to provide social protection for such experts.

At the same time we support the idea of creating international centers which could coordinate appropriate research and support the most promising areas of work.

I think the time has come to consider creating a global system for protection of the world community. It could be based on a reorientation of the U.S. strategic defense initiative (SDI) with the use of high technologies developed in Russia's defense complex.

We are ready to actively participate in the preparation and formation of an all-European collective security system, in particular at the Vienna talks and at the upcoming new talks on security and cooperation in Europe after Helsinki II.

Russia sees the United States, the West, and the countries of the East not as mere partners but as allies. This is a most important prerequisite for, I would say, a revolution in peaceful cooperation among the states of the civilized world.

We reject any subordination of foreign policy to ideological doctrines, any tendency to regard it as having an autonomous existence. Our principles are simple and clear: supremacy of democracy, human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, and morality.

I hope these things are also held dear by our partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. We support their earliest admission to the United Nations and believe that this will have a beneficial impact on the evolution of the Commonwealth itself.

The Commonwealth has been formed by the participating states on the basis of full equality and of their own free will; it rests on natural human ties among tens of millions of people.

Russia is fully aware of its responsibility for making the Commonwealth of Independent States a weighty factor for stability in the world.

This applies first and foremost to nuclear forces. The Commonwealth member states are united in the view that nuclear weapons are an integral part of the CIS strategic forces, which are subject to unified command and joint control.

Talks are now under way on questions of the future of the Armed Forces of the former Union. The main task is to carry out their transformation in a civilized manner and on a clearly defined treaty basis.

Our unswerving priority is to ensure all human rights and freedoms in their entirety, including political and civil rights and decent socioeconomic and ecological living conditions.

I believe that these questions are not an internal matter of states but rather a matter of their obligations under the UN Charter and international pacts and conventions. We want to see this approach become the universal norm. The Security Council is called upon to underscore

the civilized world's collective responsibility for the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

In the near future Russia intends to adopt legislative decisions that will reflect the highest international standards in the field of protection of human freedom, honor, and dignity.

This applies above all to ensuring personal security, the criminal code and correctional labor code, protection of Russian citizens abroad, alternative military service, and other problems.

We are prepared to accede to international instruments on migration as well as to join in the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. I believe that the experience of the world community in these areas will be valuable to Russia and other states of the Commonwealth.

The other day the last 10 political prisoners were pardoned by decree of the president of the Russian Federation.

There are no more prisoners of conscience in free Russia!

Esteemed Mr. Chairman!

A special role in establishing a new international climate in the world belongs to the United Nations Organization.

It has stood the test of time and managed even in the ice-cold age of confrontation to preserve the nascent norms of civilized international cohabitation contained in its Charter.

We welcome the increased efforts of the United Nations to strengthen global and regional stability and build a new democratic world order based on the equality of all states, big or small.

Russia is prepared to continue partnership among the permanent members of the Security Council; the current atmosphere in the work of this body is conducive to cooperative and constructive activity.

For us, the peacemaking experience of the United Nations is particularly valuable.

The new Russian diplomacy will contribute in every way to the final settlement of conflicts in various regions of the world that have been unblocked with the assistance of the United Nations. We are ready to become more fully involved in this work.

Making use of the effective role of the United Nations and the Security Council, we will take part in the search for lasting solutions to the Yugoslav and Afghan problems and the normalization of the situation in the Near and Middle East, Cambodia, and other regions.

I think we need a special rapid response mechanism, of which French President Mitterrand has spoken, to

ensure peace and stability. On the decision of the Security Council, it could be expeditiously activated in areas of crisis.

We are prepared to play a practical part in UN peace-keeping operations and contribute to their logistical support.

My country firmly supports steps aimed at strengthening the international rule of law. It is necessary to enhance the prestige of the international court as an effective instrument of the peaceful settlement of interstate disputes.

Speaking in general terms, I think the time has come to think about a serious reform in the United Nations. The world has changed and certain areas of UN activity have lost their relevance. Evidently we should forgo those structures that yield no practical benefit to the member countries.

We are prepared to present our proposals for a reform of the United Nations.

Esteemed Mr. Chairman!

It is a historical irony that the Russian State, the Russian Federation—a state with many centuries of experience in foreign policy activity and diplomacy—has only just appeared on the political map of the world.

I am confident that the world community will find in Russia a firm and steadfast champion of freedom, democracy, and humanism.

Last year's events confirm that the peoples of the world have now come of age and are capable of adopting responsible and worthy decisions.

This was vividly demonstrated by the events in the Persian Gulf, when by joint efforts it proved possible to send the aggressor on the road to just retribution, and by the victory of the August putsch in Moscow.

Difficult work lies ahead for us all to consolidate the positive trends in the development of the modern world and make them irreversible. It is only on this basis that a decent and prosperous life can be ensured for our peoples and every individual.

Russia is prepared to do everything possible to achieve these goals!

In conclusion, permit me to with you, Mr. Butrus Ghali, success in the responsible post of UN secretary general.

Thank you for your attention.

Summit 'Justified Our Expectations'

LD0102054192 Moscow TASS in English
0538 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] United Nations February 1 (ITAR-TASS)—At the close of the U.N. Security Council summit, President

Boris Yeltsin of Russia gave a news conference on Friday [31 January]. He made the following statement:

"Ladies and gentlemen, today's summit has justified our expectations. The role and the ability of the United Nations to meet the challenges of the times grow under the impact of deep-going changes in the world. I can particularly point out a firmly-voiced support for the new approach to disarmament by means of reciprocal initiatives.

You had an opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the statement of the president of Russia and the proposals of President Bush. But the approach to stability and security is not the monopoly of Russia and the United States. We suggest that other big military powers also take this road.

In a final document adopted today the Security Council has laid emphasis on the observance of all obligations in the field of arms reduction and the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Russia will consistently implement the accords reached both within the framework of cooperation with partners for the Commonwealth of Independent States and at international forums.

Human rights have become the major subject of discussion. The ensurance of human rights becomes an absolute priority in the home and foreign policies of every state. The U.N. is called upon to promote this in every way.

Much attention has been given to raising the effectiveness of the U.N. peace-making activities and all-round application of the provisions of the U.N. Charter and the powers of the secretary-general. Mr. Butrus Ghali has been given appropriate instructions. The realisation of these accords will be a realistic contribution to the shaping of a new world order on the basis of the supremacy of international legality.

A series of bilateral meetings have taken place in New York. Our common stand is in favour of a strong U.N. tackling specific problems and abandoning everything outdated.

During a meeting with the U. N. secretary-general, we reaffirmed Russia's support for his activities in this respect. I want to express gratitude once again to Mr. John Major for his initiative in convening a U.N. Security Council summit. I am confident that such summits should be held in future as well.

Anticipating questions, I can tell that I will have a meeting with U.S. business people tonight. The Russian Government has set about taking practical measures for a radical transition to a market economy.

The President of the United States came forward with the idea of coordinating foreign support for our reforms. An understanding of the importance of these reforms for the prospects of the development of the world economy is manifest. The U.S. business community's interest in cooperation with Russia is understandable as well.

The entire spectrum of matters concerning Russian-U.S. relations and our entire agenda, including preparations for a full-scale summit, are to be touched upon during a meeting with U.S. President George Bush on Saturday [1 February]."

Then the president of Russia answered questions.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent asked him to explain the essence of his proposal on the establishment of a global system for the protection of the world community. The president's opinion is that, firstly, Russia and the United States could pool efforts and work out a joint space-based global defence system at the level of scientists and designers at first.

Secondly, the making and activation of the system through the joint efforts of the United States and Russia and, possibly, other nuclear states. Thirdly, and most importantly, the joint operation of the system.

Should such a system come into being, there would be no antagonism between the two big powers "because in our military doctrine we no longer regard the United States as our potential adversary and want to be allies", Yeltsin said. With the existence of such a system and with its joint operation, submarine- and land-based nuclear weapons would be obviated altogether, he added.

In response to a question as to whether the programme would have an adverse effect on the Russian budget, the president answered in the negative. "Firstly, the development of such a system will take several years. Secondly, we need to engage the services of nuclear scientists and space experts so that they would not go abroad and would not proliferate the nuclear weapon technology to other countries. Several years will suffice for us to revitalise our economy."

At correspondents' request, President Yeltsin touched upon the question of the whereabouts of tactical nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union at present.

"All nuclear weapons have been removed from Kazakhstan and Belarus to the territory of Russia. Nuclear weapons from Ukraine are to be removed before July 1, this year, and stored for subsequent elimination. As far as strategic nuclear weapons are concerned, they are now present in all the four above-mentioned states—in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine—in operational readiness," Yeltsin said.

On Scientists, Nuclear Security

LD0102195392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Report over video by correspondent V. Ilyashenko on news conference by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in the UN Grand Hall in New York on 31 January, including recorded "brief statement" by

Yeltsin and responses to questions at the news conference; from the "Novosti" newscast presented by Pavel Kasparov]

[Text] [Kasparov] The political reverberations of the meetings which the Russian leader has held in the United States will have a very substantial effect on the international situation. Hence the extremely great interest which Boris Yeltsin's news conference in New York aroused when it took place yesterday following the end of the UN Security Council sitting.

[Ilyashenko] [Video shows Yeltsin news conference] The UN Grand Hall is crammed to overflowing. Hundreds of correspondent who have come to New York to cover the summit conference came to the Russian president's news conference. The world press displayed great interest in Yeltsin's address to the Security Council and in Russia's foreign policy initiatives. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin made a brief statement. He said, inter alia:

[Yeltsin] Today's sitting justified our expectations. The role of the United Nations and its ability to respond to the challenges of the time are growing under the influence of the profound changes in the world. I shall point out in particular the vigorously voiced support for the new approach to disarmament through counter-initiatives.

You have been able to familiarize yourselves with the statement by the president of Russia and the proposal by President Bush.

[Ilyashenko] The correspondents asked first of all about Yeltsin's proposal for setting up a global system for protecting the world community. Will Russia's participation in this costly programme not affect the country's economy?

[Yeltsin] No, I do not think so. In the first place, several years will be needed to work it out. Second, we need to engage the good brains of scientists—atomic and nuclear scientists, and space specialists—so that they do not leak away abroad, if you will excuse the expression, and do not spread, so to speak, nuclear weapons technology to other countries. If we give these 3,000 specialists work, if we give them work, then they will lose all desire to go off somewhere else.

[Ilyashenko] Many questions were put to the president on various aspects of Russia's program in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and the domestic situation in the country. The Russian president was asked about the destiny of tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Yeltsin] Everything has been withdrawn from Kazakhstan to the territory of Russia, and from Belarus to the territory of Russia; everything is being withdrawn from Ukraine, and will be withdrawn by 1 July this year, certainly.

[Ilyashenko] President Yeltsin's news conference lasted more than half an hour. Many U.S. television companies broadcast a direct relay of the news conference.

Black Sea Fleet, Ruble Discussed

LD0102064292 Moscow TASS in English
0636 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] New York February 1 (ITAR-TASS)—At a news conference at the U.N. Headquarters on Friday [31 January], President Boris Yeltsin of Russia said "one should not fear the attainment of mutual understanding between Russia and the United States on the establishment of a global security system or regard that as a new collusion between Russia and the U.S."

All nuclear powers are invited to participate in the said programme, he told those present.

Asked whether Russia is prepared to give up the 1972 ABM Treaty, Yeltsin said that Russia favours absolute observance of all the provisions of the treaty. Russia suggests the United States a global partnership for the sake of global democracy in the 21st century, he emphasised.

Speaking about the elimination of nuclear arms, Yeltsin said that Britain, the United States and Japan had already expressed a desire to help Russia in the transportation and elimination of the weapons. The question of France's participation in the process will be discussed during the Russian president's visit to that country.

Western assistance will considerably reduce Russia's spending on the elimination of nuclear arms, he said.

In response to a question about a division of the Black Sea Fleet, Yeltsin said that the fleet has 30 per cent of nuclear-armed ships. The Black Sea Fleet has been, is and will be undivided, the president of Russia stated.

Ever since its emergence the fleet has been a strategic force and has always performed and performs strategic tasks. But the Black Sea Fleet will help provide Ukraine with a number of ships for the coast guard, for the guarding of the border, for combatting smuggling, and the rescue of drowning people, he said.

Speaking about matters concerning the ensurance of an all-European security system, the president said that Russia would firmly abide by the agreements signed within the framework of the CSCE process.

The fact that a regular stage of the Middle East peace talks took place in Moscow is an illustration of Russia's interest in a solution to the problem, Yeltsin said.

In answer to a question concerning the situation in Yugoslavia, he said: "We are having dialogue with the leaders of Slovenia and Croatia. I think we shall recognise the independence of these two states at the beginning of next week," he said.

The president of Russia favoured the sending of a U.N. peace-keeping force to Nagorno-Karabakh. "A decision as to whether U.N. units should be sent there is up to Azerbaijan and Armenia as two independent states. But I think the time has come to do that."

In response to a journalist's question as to whether he attaches paramount importance to the achievement of the convertibility of a common currency for all CIS countries, Yeltsin said that this is really one of the main tasks.

A delay of a decision by the Group of Seven countries on the establishment of a ruble stabilisation fund poses a real danger, since "Russia is now faced with the last opportunity to uphold democracy. The whole world should know this. If the reform in Russia bogs down, conservatives and dictators would get at the helm, mass repressions would ensue, and the arms race would resume."

The world would be drawn into an utterly new orbit of relations. Everyone should realise that. If the West economises on kopecks now, it may lose millions in the future, Yeltsin warned.

Meets With Li Peng, Mitterrand

LD3101200592 Moscow TASS in English
1807 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations January 31 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali at the United Nations headquarters on Friday [31 January]. During the meeting, Yeltsin confirmed Russia's intention to vigorously participate in the United Nations activity and expressed the hope for the United Nations support for reforms in Russia and early admission of other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] into the world community, ITAR-TASS correspondents were told.

Butrus Ghali said the United Nations and its Security Council cannot function effectively without Russia. This is the actual confirmation of the United Nations recognition of Russia as the successor of the former Soviet Union. During a meeting between the Russian president and Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng, both leaders declared that Russo-Chinese relations should reach a new level. They confirmed that there are large opportunities for their development in the commercial economic, scientific and ecological areas.

Yeltsin also met with French President Francois Mitterrand. They mainly dwelt on matters related to nuclear armaments. It became known that Yeltsin had informed the French president of the fact that missiles stationed on the territories of CIS member states outside Russia had been removed from combat duty. He spoke of the system of control of nuclear charges and of how information is exchanged between member states of the

Commonwealth of Independent States on whose territory nuclear weapons are stationed.

Meets India's Rao, Japan's Miyazawa

*LD0102025292 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0155 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] United Nations, 1 Feb (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin continued his bilateral meetings with foreign leaders at UN Headquarters in New York on Friday [31 January] afternoon. He spoke of Russia's economic reforms and nuclear disarmament initiatives during a conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. The Japanese prime minister voiced his support for these courageous steps, being taken in both domestic policy and in international relations. A wide range of issues in Russo-Japanese relations was discussed. Both sides expressed their desire that these relations should be friendly and that cooperation in various fields should develop.

ITAR-TASS has ascertained that talks on the drafting of a peace treaty will begin in the near future; no such treaty has been concluded between Russia and Japan since the end of World War II. The talks will also include the territorial question, which is an important problem in Russo-Japanese relations. K. Miyazawa confirmed an invitation for Boris Yeltsin to visit Japan; provisional dates have already been agreed, and the visit is expected to take place about mid-September.

A meeting between the Russian president and Indian prime minister Narasimha Rao concluded the series of bilateral meetings. The Russian and Indian leaders discussed the development of relations between the two countries, and matters of cooperation and expansion of their traditionally friendly ties. Boris Yeltsin affirmed the continuity of Russian policy toward India, including on the Kashmir problem. A Russo-Indian treaty regulating economic relations is planned for signature in spring, while a political treaty could be signed during the Russian president's visit to India provisionally scheduled for October.

Signs Declaration on Children

*LD3101225892 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1618 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Excerpts] UN, 31 Jan (TASS)—Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, who arrived in the UN Headquarters on Friday [31 January] to take part in the summit sitting of the UN Security Council, took part in the official ceremony of the signing of the world declaration on guaranteeing the survival, protection, and development of children. He became the 134th head of state to put his signature to this important document.

The declaration, and also the plan of action for the nineties attached to it, were approved by the participants in the world summit-level meeting in the interests of

children, which occurred in New York in September 1990. These documents define the main directions of the efforts of the world community for the good of childhood and motherhood.

Russia intends to observe strictly the commitments laid down in the world declaration with a view to guaranteeing the rights of children to good health, education, a safe environment, and to guaranteeing a peaceful and happy life, the president of Russia stated.

Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general; James Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund; Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of Russia; Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative of Russia to the UN; and other officials took part in the ceremony along with Yeltsin.

In accordance with the clauses of the declaration, a number of measures will be adopted during the current decade aimed at reducing infant and maternal mortality. [passage omitted]

The UN Children's Fund intends to send three independent missions to the republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, over the next few weeks with a view to determining their requirements for providing health protection for the mother and child.

Further on Yeltsin, Delegation's U.S. Visit

Previews U.S. Visit

*LD0102090592 Moscow TASS in English
0756 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Sitov]

[Text] New York February 1 ITAR-TASS—All nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are under the control of President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, the ABC network was told.

The ABC timed the broadcast of Yeltsin's interview, on Friday [31 January] night, for the Russian leader's visit to the United States. The interview had been recorded in the Kremlin on January 25.

Earlier, the ABC included an excerpt from the interview in one of its regular news programmes with an announcement that Russian strategic missiles would no longer be targeted on U.S. cities.

In answer to a question whether nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are under his command, Yeltsin said: "Yes. This is the only way. We have two buttons, one is under my control and the other one is under the control of Marshal Shaposhnikov. No other authority may manage or has technical control over nuclear weapons."

Then the president of the Russian Federation specified that the button controlled by the military commander cannot be pressed without the presidential one.

Yeltsin denied assertions by some media that some Russian nuclear specialists now work abroad, in Libya in particular. Referring to the results of his recent meeting with scientists, he added: "The government of the Russian Federation intends to show care for nuclear scientists. I think this will set people's minds at rest."

During the discussion of other matters, Yeltsin expressed an opinion that his present leadership deserves a "four with minus" mark under a five-mark system. He pointed out that "Russia is now experiencing a hard period similar to that at the very end of the Second World War." "This year will be the most difficult one. Things will be easier subsequently. I feel that the majority of people support me," he added.

The president said that his government expects a stabilisation of the situation and a certain improvement in the living standard of people by the end of the current year.

The Russian leader said he regards as his main opponent at the present stage "party bureaucracy that still stands in the path of reforms." Yeltsin stated that he intended to use only political means in the struggle against this opponent.

Touching upon Russia's relations with the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Ukraine in particular, Yeltsin said: "We have had a common history and we cannot do without one another." He voiced hope that the CIS would successfully overcome all the difficulties of its formation.

ABC touched upon the subject of U.S. aid being given to Russia at a time when the United States itself is living through a period of economic difficulties. "We do not compel the United States to act in this way," Yeltsin said in this connection.

"People wholeheartedly strive to help Russia in this complex period when we transfer to democracy and to a market economy. They want to help us to overcome disastrous developments that could tell on the future of the United States.

"Just imagine that military 'hawks' would seize power as a result of some coup. Military expenditures would augment and that would put an additional burden on the economies of both Russia and the United States. We should do our best to avoid that," Yeltsin said.

Personal questions were also asked during the interview. The president of Russia said in particular that he was not afraid of assassination attempts on himself but feared for his granddaughters and a grandson because he had received information on the possibility of attempts to kidnap them.

He answered in the negative to the question whether he discusses his decisions with his wife and added that he considers himself to be the head of the house.

Yeltsin firmly denied rumours that he is intemperate in the consumption of alcoholic drinks and described the rumours as a "sheer provocation." Asked how he would like to be remembered by people, he said: "Just as I am. Without any distortions."

Yeltsin said that he did not maintain friendly relations with Gorbachev but regarded him with respect. He said that he did not expect a comeback of the former Soviet president to the leading executive position because Gorbachev when quitting assured him that he would not be engaged in politics any longer.

No Longer 'Potential Adversaries'

LD0202102192 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2155 GMT 1 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, 2 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"The President of the United States and the democratically elected president of independent Russia met today for the first time. We met not as adversaries, but as friends. This historic meeting is yet another confirmation of the end of the 'cold war' and the beginning of a new era."

With these words, George Bush began a joint news conference in Camp David after he held talks with B.N. Yeltsin. Russia and the United States, he noted, now start new mutual relations based on confidence, adherence to economic and political freedom, and the ardent desire for real cooperation. "We have agreed here in Camp David that we will move toward each other in the political and economic fields. I invited President Yeltsin to come to the United States on a state visit. He has accepted the invitation, and in turn, has invited me to come to Moscow. I, too, have accepted the invitation."

The U.S. President pointed out that President Yeltsin will come to Washington in the first half of this year.

"We agreed to cooperate in solving problems of nuclear arms safety, on arms reductions, and on a broad range of other issues," Bush noted, expressing the conviction that Yeltsin's visit was very successful.

"I am extremely grateful to my friend, George Bush, for the words he has just spoken with regard to our meeting and to Russia, and for those he addressed to me personally," the Russian president said in reply. "I am convinced that our meeting was exceptionally positive, necessary, and historic."

"We discussed a broad range of issues, many of which have not been raised for decades," Yeltsin said. "In particular, we discussed the economic reform in Russia, as well as questions of cooperation and aid to ensure that this reform does not suffocate. We also examined questions concerning the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and economic issues connected with the state of the CIS Armed Forces."

"We also discussed our latest initiatives"—the initiatives by President Bush and Russia—Yeltsin continued, "on cutting and destroying the nuclear arsenal, both strategic and tactical, to the minimum level of 2,500 warheads on both sides. Concrete talks will begin on this issue now." Problems of the arms trade, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the so-called "brain drain," and a whole range of other issues were discussed, as well.

The Russian president noted that he touched on issues of bilateral relations that "indeed have an enormous significance." All we were talking about allowed us to draw a line under the "cold war." From now on we do not regard each other as potential adversaries anymore, as it used to be in our military doctrine. This is the historic significance of this meeting. Another factor in our relations is that from now on they will be completely frank, open, and sincere. We both value this very much.

Replying to journalists' questions, Bush announced that he will send U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Moscow in about a week. This mission will have two aims: The secretary of state will have to analyze in detail the proposals by the U.S. and Russian presidents to reduce nuclear arsenals, and Baker will visit some former Soviet republics to assess the political situation and the situation with regard to humanitarian aid. Bush said that he and Yeltsin intend to build friendship between the United States and Russia which has nothing in common with the hostility of the "cold war" that sustained the arms race between the United States and the communist Soviet Union.

The head of the White House said he welcomes Yeltsin's proposal that the sides reduce nuclear warheads on long-range missiles to 2,500 units, a proposal that is to be closely studied by experts from the two states. He also expressed readiness to hold detailed discussions with the Russian president on the idea that the Russian Federation should take part in the creation of a global defense system. "This idea is of considerable interest to us," the U.S. President stressed. He disclosed that he has discussed it with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney already.

"My previous meetings with President Yeltsin have always been very pleasant," Bush said when characterizing the personal relationship developing between the two politicians. "I regard him as my friend."

Answering questions, Yeltsin noted that, besides the problem of reducing tactical and strategic nuclear armaments, the presidents discussed the complex economic situation in Russia. "I have not come here to beg for aid," the Russian President added, repeating that "it is now vitally important not to let the economic reforms in Russia fail."

If this happens, Russia might be driven to a new stage of the arms race. In this connection, he noted that the talks with Bush were directed at putting an end to the legacy of the "cold war." In particular, both countries agreed to

elaborate a series of joint programs to guarantee employment for 2,000 nuclear specialists whose wages already have been radically increased in order to prevent their emigration abroad.

At the end of the news conference, Yeltsin said he highly praised Bush as a person and as a political leader. "We even met in the days when I was in the opposition...in our telephone conversations we call each other by name."

'Camp David Declaration' Issued

PM0202191392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 3 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

["On the Principles of New Mutual Relations: The Camp David Declaration by President Bush and President Yeltsin"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] At the end of this historic meeting between the U.S. President and the president of new democratic Russia, we, the leaders of two great peoples and countries, have reached agreement that relations between Russia and America shall be based on the following principles:

First. Russia and the United States do not regard one another as potential adversaries. Henceforth, the distinguishing feature of their relations shall be friendship and partnership based on mutual trust, respect, and a common commitment to democracy and economic freedom.

Second. We will make efforts to do away with all remnants of the hostility of the "cold war" period and will accordingly take steps to reduce our strategic arsenals.

Third. We will do everything in our power to promote the well being of our peoples and expand relations between our peoples as much as possible. Openness and patience shall be the distinguishing feature of relations between our peoples and governments.

Fourth. We will actively promote free trade, investments, and economic cooperation between our two countries.

Fifth. We will make all necessary efforts to disseminate our common values and the ideals of democracy, the supremacy of the law, the observance of human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities, the respect of state borders, and peaceful changes in the world.

Sixth. We will undertake active joint efforts to:

- prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related technologies and contain the proliferation of the latest conventional weapons system in accordance with principles which shall be agreed;
- resolve regional conflicts by peaceful means;

—combat terrorism and drug trafficking and prevent the deterioration of the environment.

In adopting these principles, the United States and Russia today begin a new era in their relations. In this new era we want to achieve peace, a lasting peace based on constant common values. It can become an era of peace and friendship giving hope not only to our peoples but also to the peoples of the whole world. Until now conflict between us has served to divide the world for the lifetime of a whole generation but now, by cooperating with other countries and one another, we can promote the unification of the planet by means of our friendship—a new alliance of partners opposing the common dangers which threaten us.

Meeting With Businessmen Previewed

PM3101181792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
1 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "B. Yeltsin Urges Businessmen To Come to Russia. Right Now Businessmen Are Hesitating"]

[Text] New York—The Russian president intends to make U.S. businesspeople offers they will find hard to refuse.

According to information I have received, at a dinner meeting being organized 31 January for Boris Yeltsin on Wall Street—the U.S. participants at which will be extremely influential representatives from the world of business—the Russian leader will offer, among other things, to hand over to the Americans and let them run individual enterprises and whole groups of enterprises in extremely diverse sectors of the Russian economy and set up joint corporations in the auto manufacturing, power industry, and agrarian sectors.

In order to attract massive capital investment from overseas, the Kremlin is prepared to guarantee special privileged conditions for investors, primarily those who, as Boris Yeltsin will state at the dinner, "not only invest money, but also help to solve the problem of the consumer market." These privileges include tax breaks and price reductions.

Besides the privileges, guarantees are also envisaged: The Russian president's speech will contain the idea of establishing an international insurance fund in which Russia, the United States, and other countries will participate.

Boris Yeltsin will not only put forward offers on Wall Street, but requests as well. The most important of these, as I understand it, will be addressed more to the administration than to private business. The Russian leader would like Washington to remove all existing trade restrictions and restrictions on the exchange of technology as fast as possible with a view to establishing an "investment-friendly climate" in Russia.

This, incidentally, will be one of the main topics at the meeting that Yeltsin will have with President Bush at Camp David on 1 February.

According to information from Pavel Voshchanov, Yeltsin's press secretary, the Kremlin, while agreeing with the American agenda, has supplemented it with a few points of its own, in particular issues regarding restrictions on trade with and investments in Russia. Another topic which will also figure at Camp David concerns setting up a stabilization fund to help to ensure the convertibility of the ruble and without which, the Russian president's economic advisers are convinced, vigorous and substantive reforms are unlikely to occur.

Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar, who is accompanying Yeltsin on the current trip, has not concealed the fact that unless there are shifts in the United States' position, it is difficult to see how the problem of the stabilization fund can be resolved in Moscow's favor. According to Gaydar's assessment, the G-7 countries that support the fund are Great Britain—which was confirmed by Yeltsin's whistle-stop talks in London—Italy, France, and Canada. Germany is somewhere in the middle, and the United States and Japan have considerable reservations about the idea, to put it mildly.

But, given this spread of views, Gaydar, who was meeting with Russian and U.S. journalists, assessed the overall G-7 position as temporizing: The vice premier said that they "would first of all like to see how serious and durable our reforms are."

The skepticism expressed on this score in America has undoubtedly been reinforced by remarks made by certain leaders in the Kremlin and the Moscow White House. Here we cannot fail to overlook the interview that Aleksandr Rutskoy gave to PRAVDA. I suspect that replies like "criticism is a natural thing" are the replies that Gaydar and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev gave to journalists' questions about these sorts of remarks; they did nothing to dispel doubts about the level of political stability in Russia—on the contrary, they deepened them.

Addresses Congressional Leaders

LD0102220692 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 2120 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Lebedev and Stanislav Lunev]

[Text] Washington, 2 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Following the conclusion of his talks with U.S. President George Bush at Camp David, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with U.S. Congressional leaders on 1 February afternoon in the Russian Embassy building in Washington.

Participating in the meeting in the embassy's Golden Hall were Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives (Democrat from Washington State); George

Mitchell, leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate (from Maine); Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate (from Kansas); and Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives (from Missouri).

President Yeltsin noted at the start of the meeting: "I have just returned from Camp David, where I had an interesting and frank conversation with U.S. President George Bush. Our meeting passed in an atmosphere of very good mutual understanding." The Russian president also said that the declaration adopted in Camp David by the presidents of the two countries is an extremely important document and reflects the nature of the new relations emerging between Russia and the United States.

Yeltsin informed the congressional leaders about Russia's approach to arms control problems. He told them about the situation in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States in general, and about the implementation of economic and political reforms, and replied to questions from the American legislators. Those attending the meeting gave a positive assessment of the results of the Russian president's current visit to the United States, and expressed hope for the strengthening and further development of Russian-American relations, including the most rapid implementation of the two countries' counter initiatives in the sphere of cutting nuclear weapons.

Also present at the meeting were Yuliy Vorontsov, the state counsellor of the Russian Federation on foreign policy matters and Russian permanent representative at the United Nations; Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Links, recently appointed Russian ambassador to the United States; Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov; and also U.S. Ambassador to Russia Robert Strauss.

Churkin Discusses U.S., UN Reaction

LD0102135892 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman by correspondent Jon Snow in New York on January 31; from the "Channel 4 News" program—live]

[Text] [Snow] Well, now we're joined by Vitaliy Churkin, spokesman, once for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, now for the Russian Foreign Ministry. Vitaliy Churkin, could you hope in coming here today for anything more than a very warm embrace from the world community? Isn't that really what all of this is about?

[Churkin] Well, I think the emergence of a new democratic Russia on the international arena is a worthy occasion for any kind of a meeting, and it certainly deserves a meeting of the heads of state and governments

of the UN Security Council. It is very important that we are accepted, as such, as a fully democratic nation in the world, and it provides for some remarkable opportunities and for a better world for all the countries.

[Snow] Now, it does seem that the British, and some others, are pressing very hard to get you into the International Monetary Fund and into the World Bank, but that the Americans are a bit embarrassed about it because it involves them in having to spend a bit of money during an election year. Are you worried about this?

[Churkin] Well, I for one, do not see much of a resistance on the part of the United States to this project. I think the United States has done a lot to help, and they, as everybody else, realize that the world has a stake in the economic and political reforms underway in our country.

[Snow] Those were very alarming words from Mr. Federov from the Russian Federation's parliament. I mean he's an adviser to the vice president. Are we really that worried, in the military in Russia, that there is not going to be action by the politicians? That they themselves could then take action?

[Churkin] I do not share that kind of a concern to that extent. There is a problem, there are social issues in the military, they are being tackled, but I think our Armed Forces are not politicized. They don't want to play a political role and we saw that during the August coup, so I wouldn't be overly alarmed over such prospects.

[Snow] You've had an amazingly hectic 24 hours: You've had Boris Yeltsin received in London, now received here in the UN. How is the Russian delegation responding to this, I mean, is it going as you wanted?

[Churkin] Courageously. It has gone on pretty well. Yes, we are happy about the progress so far and the tone in which the talks, conversations are being conducted.

[Snow] Now, is Russia in any position, really, to help now shape the UN? I mean, everybody has been talking about the need to use the UN, to control nuclear proliferation, to help resolve conflicts, and the rest of it, but you've got no money to put into it. Have you got expertise you're prepared to lend?

[Churkin] Well, we have our international standing, we have our seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, we have a lot of experience in dealing with those matters, we have excellent cooperation with the United States which we expect to continue, and I'm sure that the economic problems we have are temporary and we'll be able to come out of it. We will be looking forward to long term cooperation and use of the United Nations to the benefit of the world.

[Snow] What do you think is the most substantial difference we will notice from the occupation of that chair by the Soviet Union and the occupation of the chair, now, by your Russian Federation?

[Churkin] Well, I think the basic difference, not only in the United Nations but internationally, generally, is that now Russia is a fully democratic country, fully committed to a market economy and the reforms, and it is being accepted this way. So that opens up very great possibilities for arms control, and we've already seen that, and working in many other areas. Where we used to have confrontation, now we can work in cooperation.

[Snow] What hopes do you have on the trip to Washington? What are you going to hope to get out of the Americans tomorrow?

[Churkin] I hope we'll have substantive and useful discussions on arms control, which will make it possible for us to proceed on the basis of the statements recently made by the two presidents, and we hope to have good discussions on economic matters, too.

[Snow] Do you yet feel that the American leadership is as fond of Boris Yeltsin as it was of Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Churkin] Americans appreciate and very much value the fact that Boris Yeltsin is the first democratically elected president for our country and they surely realize that despite all the economic difficulties we have, he continues to enjoy a very high level of support back home in Russia.

Kozyrev Remarks on 'Notable Events'

LD0202002492 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2325 GMT 1 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Stanislav Lunev and Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, 1 Feb (TASS)—Prior to departing from Washington for Canada by air, Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, gave an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS correspondents, in which he stressed that "the summit-level meetings and conversations held by Russian President B. Yeltsin within the context of the UN Security Council sitting and, in particular, his talks with U.S. President G. Bush at Camp David are the most notable events in recent times, the culmination of everything that the Russian leadership has done before in the international arena. The talks which have taken place symbolize the qualitatively new relations between the Russian Federation and the United States, a switch from the confrontation of the past to direct recognition of the fact that we are no longer even potential foes and that we enjoy friendly relations, which may in the future be those of allies. This means the collapse of the entire post-war structure, the collapse of a world based upon confrontation, and also the engendering of a truly new world order and a new world system of coordinates for the people of the Russian Federation. Characteristically, all this has been achieved by democratic Russia, which is a great power, because all the talk about so-called 'banana republics' serves only to demonstrate the groundlessness of such talk."

During his conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces, commented that the Russian president's current visit to the United States "truly has become a working visit, during which the sides have had to get through quite a lot of work. However, the results of the talks show that this visit has become a new and crucial point in the history of our state, during which matters of extraordinary importance for both ourselves and the international community have been addressed. The duration of this foreign trip and the multitude of meetings and talks notwithstanding, it should be noted that the central feature was the talks at Camp David between the Russian and American presidents; without exaggeration, they marked a new page in relations between the Russian Federation and the United States, because they affirmed that the two countries no longer see each other as potential adversaries. This is the first such declaration since World War II."

"At present," Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov continued, "our country and the CIS as a whole are undergoing difficult and critical times in connection with the reforms, primarily economic ones, which are proceeding with some difficulty. If these reforms are deflected or even stopped, however, then Russia and the CIS in general might return to the totalitarianism that we had before. This would mean a new arms race, the return of additional military spending and, possibly, repression, which would be completely unacceptable to us, to the world, and to all mankind. This scenario was stressed during the Camp David talks, and met with understanding from the American side. For me, personally, this visit has provided much that is new. In particular, it has enabled me to establish direct contacts, including with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney. During the talks that we held, the American side expressed its understanding of the prospects for our Commonwealth and its future, because it is based on trust between our countries and honesty with all sides. Honesty is in itself the foundation of relations not only between peoples but also between states".

CNN Interviews Kozyrev on U.S. Aid

LD3101221292 Moscow TASS in English
2053 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York January 31 TASS—Russia is destined to be a global power and it does not seek to shirk this role, but it wants to change its essence: not a threat, ideology, aspiration for all-round domination, but rather promotion of the international stability, democracy and economic cooperation among states, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was quoted as saying today in an interview with the Cable News Network (CNN). He is now in New York taking part in the U.N. Security Council summit meeting.

It is democracy that has won the cold war. Not any individual country, but democracy. Now we try to put it into practice and give it a firm foundation. Of course, the task is not an easy one, the Russian minister stressed.

He expressed his gratitude to the U.S. Administration for its assistance and support in implementing the economic reform in Russia. "We are aware of the growing wish of Congress and the American public to help Russia. We are of the opinion there are good chances for adopting some sort of international programme of aid to Russia and other republics, similar to the "Marshal Plan", Kozyrev pointed out.

Delegation Addresses Missiles Reports

LD3101182592 Moscow Programme Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting between the Russian delegation and American journalists has taken place [at UN Headquarters in New York]. In his remarks, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev confirmed that from now on Russian missiles will not be aimed at the United States in accordance with a unilateral decision made by Russia. At the same time, he said, changing missile targetting will take time and require resolving some technical problems.

For his part, Vice Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar expressed gratitude to the international community for the aid provided to Russia and the Commonwealth. He stressed that aid is mainly necessary to stabilize the ruble, and this is possible only with the creation of a stabilizing fund within the framework of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. American journalists were told in detail about the privatisation program that is being implemented in Russia.

Gaydar on Improving Economy

LD3101183392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] In a conversation with journalists in New York, Yegor Gaydar, who is accompanying the president of Russia on his trip abroad, said it would be irresponsible and unrealistic to promise the people of Russia a radical improvement in the situation in all spheres of the economy in the near future. But, he added, the government should show the people that the situation is changing.

Gaydar expressed confidence that the supply of meat and milk will improve in the next three months and that the manufacture of clothing will increase. However, it will be much more difficult to achieve a significant improvement in the provisioning of other goods in short supply, such as sugar and vegetable oil, within that time.

Gaydar said that this year the Russian Government will adopt measures to privatize retail trade, the food industry, and enterprises producing construction materials.

Shaposhnikov on CIS-U.S. Future

LD0102132592 Moscow TASS in English 1249 GMT 1 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington February 1 TASS—In a WASHINGTON POST interview published today, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov did not exclude [that] the United States and the Commonwealth member states could become allies in future.

The commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States accompanies Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his trip to the U.S.

"We have some experience from World War II where we very successfully accomplished our mission," he recalled. "We must not be imprisoned by our old, unkind relationship."

Shaposhnikov emphasised the importance of the proposal to create a global defence system for the world community, which was put forward by Yeltsin at the summit of the UN Security Council. He said this system could be based on the re-oriented U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme and use technologies developed in Russia's defence sector.

Shaposhnikov said this proposal became possible thanks to "the new level of trust and confidence" between the U.S. and former Soviet republics.

Pointing out that roughly ten nations are gaining the capability to acquire and deliver nuclear weapons, Shaposhnikov called for collaboration between Russia and the U.S. to make sure that "no unauthorised employment of such weapons can be undertaken by any third country."

Shaposhnikov said that Washington had offered to assist in the transport of nuclear weapons to Russia from the Commonwealth states, but that Moscow had rejected the assistance as unnecessary, the WASHINGTON POST writes.

Shaposhnikov expressed concern that extensive Western involvement in the dismantling of the Soviet nuclear complex would compromise military secrets.

Shaposhnikov also said that steps were being taken in the Commonwealth to reduce arms exports to Iran and to ensure that military equipment does not leak to extremist states.

Yeltsin Meets With Canadian Prime Minister

LD0202063292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0555 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Vasilets and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Ottawa, 2 Feb (TASS)—At a joint news conference at the parliament building Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney have expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks during which specific programs for broadening economic cooperation were outlined. The Russian president is on a short visit to Canada which ended on 1 February around midnight.

At the news conference, Brian Mulroney announced that Ottawa is providing an additional 100 million dollar credit to Russia for purchases of food. A delegation led by International Trade Minister Michael Wilson will go to Moscow to discuss specific programs to deepen economic ties.

According to the prime minister, the Russian president is not afraid of making difficult decisions which could make him unpopular. Talking about the difficulties which Russia is going through at the moment, Boris Yeltsin stressed that all countries should be interested in the success of the reforms there. We should not allow a return to totalitarianism. He appealed for increased Western investments in the Russian economy.

Joint Declaration Signed

LD0202050592 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0447 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Vasilets and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Ottawa, 2 Feb (TASS)—Russia and Canada have declared that they "will be developing their relations as friendly states." A declaration on friendship and cooperation between the two states signed 1 February by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney established this determination. Both sides have agreed to view the signed document as an important foundation for the preparation of a treaty on friendship and cooperation aimed at "laying a firm political and legal foundation for the future development of Russian-Canadian relations".

In the declaration, Canada welcomes Russian assurances about the nuclear weapons remaining under secure control. Both sides support the efforts aimed at achieving further substantial reductions of nuclear arsenals.

Russia and Canada will act jointly to ensure effective international participation in the process of the realization of economic reform in the Russian Federation. They undertake to offer assistance in the creation of joint ventures and personnel training, including managers. The declaration outlines priority areas in trade, financial and investment cooperation.

Russia and Canada are the largest Arctic states. The document reflects their mutual wish to defend the fragile natural environment of the Arctic and at the same time to assist in improving the quality of life of its peoples.

Priority is given to development of economic cooperation between the northern regions of both states and to encouragement of contacts between the native peoples of these regions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Barbara McDougall, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, signed a memorandum that envisages holding regular consultations between the governments of the two countries on the entire range of issues regarding bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest.

'Five-Year Agreement' Reached

LD0202054692 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0450 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Vasilets and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Ottawa, 2 Feb (TASS)—A new five-year agreement on grain deliveries has been concluded between Russia and Canada. According to the agreement, Russian organizations will purchase 5 million tonnes of Canadian wheat and fodder grain per annum. The sides reserve their right to negotiate an increase or reduction in the volumes of the shipments in any particular year but the total volume of the purchased wheat and fodder should constitute 25 million tonnes.

A considerable trade balance in Canada's favor remains between the two countries because of large purchases of Canadian grain. Realizing that in the long term such a situation could not lead to stable and dynamic trade between the two countries, Ottawa has pledged to take the necessary measures to encourage Russian exports to Canada.

The agreement was signed by Vice Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Charles Mayer, minister of state for grains and oil seeds, in the presence of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who was here on a working visit.

International Affairs

Lukin, Rogachev Appointed New Ambassadors

OW0302140492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1330 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has appointed ambassadors to a number of foreign states. The post of the Russian Federation's Ambassador to the U.S. has been offered to Vladimir Lukin, who headed the Russian parliament's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Trade. Vladimir Lukin will be given the title of the Russian Federation's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

President Yeltsin has freed the Russian Federation's Ambassador to China, Nikolay Solovyov, from his duties, and transferred him to another job, and appointed Igor Rogachev Ambassador to China. Before the Union Foreign Ministry was put under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, Igor Rogachev was deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Further on Lukin's Position

LD0102031592 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 0125 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] United Nations, 1 Feb (TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin presented Vladimir Lukin in the capacity of Russia's ambassador to the United States of America at a news conference at UN Headquarters on Friday [31 January]. Vladimir Lukin, who currently occupies the post of chairman of the committee for international affairs and foreign economic ties of the Russian Supreme Soviet, reported to journalists that he only learned of his appointment yesterday. For me, he stated, it is a great honor to be the first ambassador of the Russian democratic state to the United States. I want America—this great democracy—to help us as far as possible in establishing our democracy. Russia's course in relations with the United States is a course of friendship and cooperation, including in the sphere of disarmament. We very much hope that American business will support our reforms not just in words but in deeds. Vladimir Lukin noted that in connection with the new appointment he will leave the post of chairman of the parliamentary committee. Recently, the Russian Embassy in Washington was headed by Viktor Komplektov, who was formerly the USSR ambassador to the United States.

Kozyrev on Black Sea Economic Talks

LD0302110492 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1011 GMT 3 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chelyshev]

[Excerpt] Istanbul, 3 Feb (TASS)—A meeting of representatives of nine countries opens today in Istanbul on questions of economic cooperation in the Black Sea region.

Moscow attaches great significance to this forum, which is being held at a time when radical changes in international political and economic relations are occurring, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "The importance of the agreement that we are initialing in Istanbul," A.Kozyrev said, "is that this will be a step aimed at turning the Black Sea area not into an area of rivalry and confrontation, but into an area of good-neighborliness and cooperation. Second, the agreement is being initiated under new conditions, when there is no longer a Soviet Union but a Commonwealth of Independent States. This agreement is based on new principles—the principles of the market economy and market democratic relations." [passage omitted]

Withdrawal From Baltics 'Now Under Control'

LD0302104592 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 2155 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Feb (TASS)—The process of withdrawing troops of the former Soviet Union from the Baltic countries is now under control. This is how Sergey Shakhrai, Russian Federation Government deputy chairman and state adviser for legal matters, defined the main result of the three-day trip by a Russian delegation to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The delegation leader gave an interview to journalists on the evening of 2 February at the airport on his return to Moscow.

According to Sergey Shakhrai, there is a fundamental difference between the accords reached and the decisions of the former Soviet leadership. There is no final date for troop withdrawal in any one single document. He pointed out that in the case of Eastern Europe these dates were frequently made up. As a result, servicemen in Russia found themselves unprotected. However, in the course of the present meetings, approximately 10 factors were formulated that affect the speed of withdrawal. Experts are to deal with them.

The Russian delegation head stated that those units that will be withdrawn from Lithuania in February and from Latvia in March, and where they will be quartered, has already been determined. In Estonia's case, a specific month for the start of troop withdrawals has not yet been fixed. According to Sergey Shakhrai, the government crisis in that republic has resulted in it not having a delegation with appropriate powers. Instead of negotiations, an exchange of opinions was held with the top leadership. It is planned to hold a meeting of state delegations from Russia and Estonia at the end of February or the beginning of March.

Sergey Shakhrai stressed that it is clearly indicated in the documents that any serviceman of the former USSR is under the protection of Russian law. The Russian side assumes the obligations of observing the laws of the states of residency, but these agreements will take precedence over national legislation. In the event of a conflict, as in the case of Latvia and Estonia, which have announced the nationalization of military property of the former USSR, it is proposed "to reach a civilized agreement on what will be ceded or sold to the republics and what will be withdrawn." At the same time, the parties will refrain from unilateral acts.

"Far be it from me to say that everything has been resolved, but standpoints have been determined and the foundations for further work are there," Sergey Shakhrai concluded.

Withdrawal To Begin Feb, Mar

OW0202182392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1645 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talks began in Tallinn on Sunday [2 February] between the state delegations of Russia and Estonia on matters related to the temporary presence in Estonia of former Soviet troops that are now under Russia's jurisdiction, and on their withdrawal. The Russian delegation is headed by Vice Premier Sergey Shakhrai.

Experts and diplomats from the Russian delegation note that the line taken by Estonia is hinged on a constructive approach to the full range of military and related political issues being discussed. They have said in particular that the Estonian side has expressed readiness to provide funds for construction of military camps for the troops being pulled out.

The day before, Russian negotiators had held talks in Riga with a Latvian delegation. The two sides noted in a final communique that the armed forces of former USSR stationed on the territory of Latvia would from now on be treated "as foreign armed forces being withdrawn from the territory of another sovereign state".

The pullout of troops from Latvia is scheduled to begin in March 1992. The delegations reached agreement that the time, sequence and stages of the pullout would be chosen in such a way as to ensure Latvia's and Russia's national security, as well as guarantee social protection of servicemen and their families. It has been decided that matters related to social protection of retired servicemen will be addressed as soon as possible at the negotiating table.

Similar understandings have been reached by Russia with Lithuania. The pullout of troops from the territory of that republic is to begin as early as February.

Japan's Miyazawa Supports Early Settlement

*LD0302135192 Moscow TASS in English
1227 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo February 3—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa announced today for an early settlement to the territorial issue in relations with Russia and for the conclusion of a peace treaty. Answering questions during the debates that began on Monday [3 February] in the budgetary commission of the lower chamber of parliament, he said that his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in New York and the forthcoming visit of the Russian president to Japan in September mean definite progress.

The prime minister said a bilateral meeting of the working group on peace treaty at the level of deputy foreign ministers will be held on February 10-11. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Japan at the end of March. After that, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will make a new trip to Moscow (he returned from Moscow a few days ago). In the run-up to Yeltsin's visit to Japan the dialogue between the two countries will become more intensive.

Progress began in relations between Japan and Russia as a result of a meeting of the two countries' leaders in New York, the newspaper YOMIURI writes on Monday [3 February]. These relations were in a chaotic state following the Soviet Union's collapse.

YOMIURI writes that by stating the intention to visit Japan in September, the Russian president showed the striving to advance relations with Japan.

At the same time YOMIURI writes that in the present conditions Russia finds it difficult to embark on the settlement of the territorial issue. Whether bilateral relations develop rapidly or will be in decay will depend on the domestic situation in Russia.

Germany's Moellemann, Delegation Arrive

*LD0302095292 Berlin ADN in German 0852 GMT
3 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] Moscow (ADN)— Federal Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann arrived in Moscow on 3 February for talks on economic relations between Germany and Russia. He is accompanied by about 30 representatives from German industry, who will be exploring opportunities for cooperating with Russian enterprises. The talks will also deal with preparations for the session of the German-Russian Economic Council which is to meet in Bonn for the first time on 18 February.

The Russian Government also intends to discuss the future gas deal with East Germany with the minister. In the run-up to the talks, Moscow threatened to stop gas supplies as of 1 March, should the price for Russian gas not be increased. Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chief of the Russian gas company Gazprom, informed Moellemann in a letter dated 27 January that the East German concern Verbundnetz Gas AG (VNG) "can no longer count on receiving our gas supplies" after 1 March 1992. It is unacceptable that VNG has been receiving gas for over a year on a non-contractual basis, and has fixed prices for it which are substantially lower than those paid to other gas suppliers, the letter said. [passage omitted]

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees Kremlin Official Residence

*LD3101222592 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Report by announcer Sergey Dorenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In spite of all his commitments and being 10,000 km from home, Boris Yeltsin signed the following decree today:

Decree: The Moscow Kremlin is the official residence of the president of the Russian Federation.

Signed: Boris Yeltsin, Moscow, 31 January

Such mysticism. Either Yeltsin has not left Moscow or somebody in the president's office will lose a bonus in January.

Decree Date 'No Contradiction'

OW0102184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1640 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some of the media have drawn public attention to the fact that Boris Yeltsin's decree proclaiming the Moscow Kremlin his official residence was dated January 31 while he was on a visit abroad. However, sources close to the Russian president told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that there is no contradiction: wherever Boris Yeltsin is, his communication with the country is constant, stable and reliable.

Representatives of the Yeltsin administration explained that the president works on documents incessantly, and on board a plane as well. The most urgent documents are delivered to Moscow with messengers, as was with the latest decree on the official residence delivered among other documents to Moscow from London.

'Little-Known Facts' About Yeltsin Cited

PM0302130992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 92 p 3

[Unattributed roundup based on reminiscences of V. Sanatin, S. Kozheurov, Yu. Sorokin, S. Drozdov, K. Bayalinov, S. Bartnikas, and S. Brilev: "Yeltsin Likes To Play the Spoons, or 24 Little-Known Facts About the Russian President's Life"]

[Text] 1. Friends of his youth remember that when Boris graduated from the Uralsk polytechnical institute and came to the construction workers' hostel he had only one possession in his hands—the collected works of V.I. Lenin.

2. To this day Yeltsin's mom, Klavdiya Vasilyevna, sees her son as being as romantic and defenseless as he was in his youth. She loves him just as anxiously and tenderly and in the evenings she knits him warm woolen socks.

3. Yeltsin's brother Mikhail works as an installation worker on the construction of a new residential region in Yekaterinburg. His wealth consists solely of a two-room apartment and a subsidized Zhiguli. He does not like foreign journalists—he has become "sick" of them.

4. In climbing the career ladder even in Sverdlovsk Yeltsin counted on young people and skillfully won their sympathy. "At the dawn of perestroika," in the early eighties, as first secretary of the oblast committee, he committed what was for that time an unprecedented violation of hierarchical ethics: He personally toured the

Sverdlovsk student canteens and then spent six hours answering all the students' questions in the enormous Youth Center auditorium.

5. Yeltsin's first interview in the central press was published in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in May 1980. There could be no question of a personal meeting and the text of the "conversation" was written by the journalist—at that time party leaders did not bother to put pen to paper themselves, and Yeltsin was no exception. But when the "interview" had already been approved, Yeltsin suddenly called the correspondent into his enormous office to shake his hand and utter one sentence: "Things have turned out badly. We worked together but we did not even make each other's acquaintance!"

6. In general Yeltsin always loved the press. The day after he was appointed oblast committee first secretary he visited the newspaper URALSKIY RABOCHIY to have a heart to heart talk. He knew all the central newspapers' own correspondents personally and would invite them by telephone to tour with him if a major initiative was being launched at a particular enterprise. That love was returned to him a hundredfold at the time of his disgrace. It is worth mentioning this now, when as a result of the policy of Yeltsin's cabinet 80 percent of journalists are threatened with unemployment...

7. Oblast committee first secretaries could not live without putting on a shoe and Yeltsin did not avoid that either. One summer season he spent over 20 million rubles and oversaw in record time the construction of the country's first show village near the settlement of Baltytym, alongside government dachas. Virtually all the "stars" of the Central Committee secretariat and Politburo, except for the general secretary, visited the miracle village.

8. In Yeltsin's time the 24-story CPSU obkom [oblast committee], also erected very rapidly, was an unexpected gift for Sverdlovsk's inhabitants. The skyscraper received three unofficial names among the people: "the wisdom tooth," "God's finger," and "member of the CPSU."

9. Fences concealing the cheerless shame of ramshackle private housing were erected for an all-union conference in Sverdlovsk along the road from the airport and along all the "guest routes." They were painted an unimaginative poison green color. The people immediately dubbed Boris Nikolayevich "the wizard of Emerald City."

10. Yegor Ligachev was not so wrong when he stated at the 19th party conference: "Boris, you put the oblast onto coupons." Sverdlovsk Oblast was the first to introduce this supreme form of socialist barter. At first the coupons were only for meat and only for the two "red" holidays a year... Recently Yeltsin abolished both these holidays on Russian territory.

11. Yeltsin's habit of putting "his" people in every post is known to every one. He also had a fatherly attitude

toward the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League]. He made the two first Sverdlovsk Komsomol Obkom secretaries, V. Ilyushin and A. Tsaregorodtsev, his assistants one after the other and then took them with him to Moscow. During the time of his disgrace both remained loyal to their "master" and after he came to power both were restored to key posts in the Russian administration. Ilyushin leads the president's secretariat and Tsaregorodtsev heads the vice president's secretariat. The latter is food for thought for those inclined to dramatize A. Rutskoy's "opposition stance."

12. There are three "no-nos" which, by common testimony, he has never transgressed: Yeltsin does not smoke, does not use bad language, and never addresses his subordinates in the second person singular.

13. Yeltsin contributed to the struggle for a sober way of life for working people. People came to Sverdlovsk to gain experience. It is true that even then some lawyers asserted that the "initiative" of the northern pipe workers whereby the entire team would not receive bonuses because of one drunken absentee was a violation of human rights.

14. In a recent interview with ABC television Boris Nikolayevich denies reports of his fondness for alcohol. "Of course we celebrate holidays in our family. I do not lead an ascetic life but I categorically deny any rumor of any kind," Yeltsin said. Nonetheless on Yeltsin's presidential aircraft it is always possible to order a glass of brandy or champagne. Back in Sverdlovsk with his colleagues from the CPSU Obkom he would visit the traditional rallies of the student construction detachments and could knock back several glasses to toast the young people's health. But he did not like to do that for free: He would pay from his own pocket, even if it was only a three-ruble note.

15. It may be said that alcohol has become an abiding element in Yeltsin's reputation. Rumors about this arise in journalists' circles whenever he disappears from view with his inherent suddenness, as was the case during his recent sudden departure for Novorossiysk.

16. "Where were you 16 August, on the eve of the putsch?"—that popular question could also be put to Yeltsin. Yeltsin was with Nazarbayev in a mountain gorge near Alma-Ata, in a government residence. Yeltsin's government aircraft was three hours late taking off for Moscow: According to one story because when the two presidents were saying good-bye they drank more than mare's milk, according to another because of the rain which had made the mountain road very wet, so that the president's heavy automobiles could have skidded off the road on a bend. At any rate the following morning Yeltsin had to forget both stories. It was on a tank that he met the putsch which had begun.

17. In the period of antagonism toward Gorbachev, Yeltsin mentioned him in the most unexpected situations and this was very reminiscent of an *idée fixe*. When he was offered a horseback ride in Alma-Ata he hastily

refused: "I can still fight Gorbachev, but I am afraid of horses—I cannot control them."

18. Yeltsin is far more frightened for his own grandchildren. He has three, one of them also called Boris. Yeltsin recently told U.S. television that he had received information of preparations to kidnap them.

19. In private Yeltsin likes to demonstrate his ability to play on the Russian wooden spoons. He played at the wedding of People's Artist of the USSR V. Yaroshenko, at the folk instruments museum in Alma-Ata (to Kazakh folk music), and at a banquet in Kirghizia he used silver spoons for the purpose.

20. The president's Il-62 aircraft belongs to the government No. 285 air detachment, which Yeltsin inherited from Gorbachev. The tricolor Russian flag is on the tail: The aircraft was sent to Ireland's Shannon airport to have the flag painted since, according to air detachment deputy commander Yuriy Lengarov, the painting there ensures the best aerodynamics.

21. Since February last year, when Yeltsin was preparing to speak on television and demand Gorbachev's resignation, he has used the services of specialist image-making psychologists. They read his speeches in advance and recommended that he make some passages softer. Considering that Yeltsin was too inhibited, they insisted that during his television appearance his chair should be on castors—"Yeltsin comes over better when he is moving." They advised him not to be embarrassed to gesture with the hand on which there are two fingers missing. For some time he carried the psychologists' recommendations with him in his pocket.

22. Yeltsin has almost all the main awards of the former USSR: orders of Lenin, the Labor Red Banner, and the October Revolution. However, the most exotic exhibit in his collection of awards so far is the diamond- and ruby-encrusted order of the Assyrian Goddess Bau presented to him by Dzhuna Davitashvili at her apartment.

23. In the deputies' slang the president is usually called Bob, BN, or Bob Nikolayevich.

24. Yeltsin is no stranger to hunting and, having brought down a wild boar, poses for the photographer in his customary capacity as victor.

Retail Kiosk Sales of Newspaper Halted

PM3101170992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 1 Feb 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Sensation": "The Government Is Prepared to Move Into an Information Vacuum Bunker"]

[Text] It seems that the market radicals in the Russian Government have reached... a logical absurdity. The slogan "Any social protection, whether of individual strata of the population, individual production processes, or individual sectors is detrimental to the

reforms" has led to a situation where, from 1 February, the reader who is accustomed to buying his newspapers at a kiosk will be deprived of this possibility. From this time, as a result of the government's pricing policy, the selling price of one issue of a newspaper will rise to between 2 rubles [R] 50 kopeks and R5. Naturally, the editors and publishers are simply stunned by these actions, although, it would seem, they should be the first to have become used to the abrupt gestures of the irresponsible leadership.

So, a government which now more than ever needs its activity analyzed and its policies brought to the attention of society, is in effect turning itself into a sectarian group. Only those who work on Staraya Ploshchad will have the honor of reading even the government's numerous ordinances and resolutions.

Finally we announce: "Soyuzpechat" [Main Administration for the Distribution of Printed Matter] enterprises in the cities of St. Petersburg, Kemerovo, Perm, Chelyabinsk, Novosibirsk, Krasnodar, Samara, Lipetsk, Irkutsk, and Yekaterinburg have (for the time being) agreed to retail at the old rates. In other printing centers (until all the circumstances are clarified) the Russian Supreme Soviet's publication [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] will not go on retail sale.

And, to conclude, a heckling comment, or a warning: If the government does not recognize the social significance of the press and fails to take measures to ensure its survival, it may happen that it will share the fate of the mass media, which are being dealt lethal blows. However, the most surprising thing is that no one will know, except for perhaps the BBC, which our president is so keen on.

Papers Withdraw From 'Soyuzpechat'

PM3101203192

[Editorial Report] As a result of their differences with the "Soyuzpechat" Central Retail and Subscription Agency over new distribution prices, Moscow newspapers published on 1 February have announced that they are, at least temporarily, dispensing with the agency's services in distributing their papers to retail outlets. At present, "Soyuzpechat" has a virtual monopoly on the distribution of newspapers to the retail trade.

Thus, SELSKAYA ZHIZN, in a front-page "Essential Explanation to Readers," states, in part: "As of today—we hope temporarily—SELSKAYA ZHIZN will not be on retail sale. According to a notification from the 'Soyuzpechat' Central Retail and Subscription Agency [CSRA], which as of 1 February is switching to a system of work with publishing houses on distributing publications to the retail trade at deregulated newsstand prices [svobodnaya otpusknaya tsena], the minimum newsstand price for our newspaper, including a 25-percent markup, is calculated at 3 rubles [R] 77 kopeks per copy.

Neither we nor you can agree with this. And 'Soyuzpechat' refuses to accept the newspaper for distribution at the old price."

PRAVDA carries on page 3, under the headline "New Act Played Out in Theater of Absurd, a 'Message to PRAVDA Friends' Clubs and Our Voluntary Helpers" which begins: "The newspaper's editorial office appeals first of all to its aktiv, to those who are not indifferent to the word of PRAVDA. Evidently, the monopolist distributor of periodicals—Soyuzpechat—finally has decided to cripple us. Under their calculation method, the newspaper's price on street newsstands should be almost R4! We cannot accept such services. Talks have begun. Today we ask our aktiv to organize its own distribution and sale system in the cities where the newspaper is printed.

"The Russian authorities once again are acting as the arbiters of pricing fashion, but they also are compulsorily dragging other states into this absurdity. Obviously PRAVDA will not be on Russia's newsstands today."

After listing "the areas served by and the telephone numbers of our correspondents, who will help you organize PRAVDA's distribution," PRAVDA concludes: "Because of snowballing prices for literally everything, PRAVDA will come out five times a week in February. You will not find the newspaper on Thursdays.

"The PRAVDA editorial office is seeking partners for our newspaper's retail sale in Moscow and its oblast. We are prepared to cooperate with organizations and private persons. We are offering more advantageous terms to news vendors. Call us on telephone numbers 257-38-89 and 257-36-85."

IZVESTIYA MORNING EDITION carries on pages 1 and 2 a Mikhail Berger article entitled "Conflict Over Prices for Newspapers and Periodicals," which states, in part: "On 29 January, our publishing house officially rejected the CSRA's services and is concluding as a matter of urgency direct contracts with regional enterprises for the distribution of the press, including such enterprises in Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent, Baku, and Yerevan. As yet, not all regional services have entered into a new relationship with us on mutually advantageous terms (the publishing house hopes that this will happen), and, therefore, in the near future—not for long, we hope—there will be a reduction in the number of copies of IZVESTIYA available for retail sale. But the price for them will be increasing only 30-50 percent rather than four- or five-fold."

Other 1 February Moscow dailies carry similar statements on refusing "Soyuzpechat" services at the prices currently demanded.

20 Publications Fall Victim to Market Reforms

LD0302072492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Many periodical publications are the first casualties on the way to the market. About 20 newspapers and magazines have announced the end of subscriptions, according to the Central Retail Subscription Agency. The abolition of a large number of trade publications is also expected. The closure of newspapers and magazines will result in unemployment among journalists and printers.

Poltoranin Comments on 'House of Russian Press'

LD0302084892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT
31 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" Newscast]

[Excerpts] We are happy to congratulate our colleagues: newspaper journalists. The Russian president's decree that appeared today will ensure that they have normal working conditions. As of now dozens of editorial offices of Russian newspapers and magazines will be accommodated in the former building of the Russian Government, 26 Pushkinskaya Street, in the center of Moscow.

[Poltoranin, minister of press and information] I would call this President Yeltsin's decree on the creation of the House of Russian Press yet another serious step which demonstrates the Russian Government's support for our independent newspapers. After all, 1,000 new independent newspapers and 1,800 publishing houses have appeared in Russia in the last year. Dozens of TV and radio companies have appeared. Whereas somewhere in the localities they are still looking for office space—and, in general, administrative heads have been asked to find all the possibilities to improve journalists' life—in Moscow President Yeltsin has set an example to all heads showing how one should care about journalists, and we give them the best building. I would say, an administrative building constructed in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Media Official Criticizes Subsidy Cuts

LD0202045492 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] One of the Gosteleradio deputy chairmen has said, while staying in Atlanta, that the Russian government is threatening mass media bodies which tend to be too critical with cuts in subsidies. Meanwhile, Poltoranin, the press and information minister, visited Russian television today. When he paid his visit, he suggested that our television and radio company has good prospects.

Burbulis on Prices, Yeltsin's Arms Proposal

LD0202212792 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1826 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Interview with Russian First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis by Tatyana Khudobina; place and date not given; from the "Facing Russia" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Khudobina] [passage omitted] Which events would you single out as the main ones this week?

[Burbulis] Today we have an opportunity to draw together some of the threads. We have a very strange and interesting picture. On the one hand, a stabilization of prices; on the other hand, their slow fall in something like one-third of the towns of Russia. Another one-third is at a stable level, and this pre-market motivation, if I can put it like that, is absent. We think there will be a more complex and varied picture, but at present it is beginning to resemble a certain stabilization.

But at the same time, I could not say, looking you and our viewers straight in the eye, without reservation that we will achieve a steady fall in prices in the coming February days and weeks. Most likely, this will depend on the extent to which we succeed in directly invigorating production. That is, we still lack even a hint of any rise in productivity, or of any stimulus to the producer under our conditions. This is a signal for the government, and we believe that a certain correction will be required of us this week. This will be linked with pin-pointing how appropriate value-added tax is on a whole range of fields including such categories as students, hospitals, schools, and pre-school establishments. It also concerns this same tax on a whole range of products, such as flour, macaroni products, groat products, dairy products, and vegetable oil.

I should like to inform our esteemed viewers with satisfaction that we prepared a document with the leadership of the Supreme Soviet 1 February. This document will be examined by the Presidium on 3 February. This is a joint resolution by the Supreme Soviet and the government on the social protection of the population and pricing for certain types of output. We think this is prompted by life itself. The document will include a proposal that public catering enterprises should be essentially freed from this tax on their own produce, in those socially unprotected spheres. It will include a proposal to significantly reduce value-added tax on these kinds of products. And the main thing: We think that after all the discussions, it is appropriate to set ourselves the task of restricting monopolistic enterprises. In connection with their highly aggressive behavior in the market system today, we think this will be fair with respect to everyone, without exception. [passage omitted]

[Khudobina] It is revealing that you began our conversation with the question of prices, with the social protection of the population, with the document which is to be adopted tomorrow, while journalists named the main

event of the week as Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's trip abroad and the declaration he made about arms reduction.

[Burbulis] I can say that that is not some blunder of mine, it is our strategy. We would like to be correctly understood. And all the effort connected with Russia's foreign policy today, all our diplomacy, which is nascent but decisive, as Boris Nikolayevich's visit showed, is directed first and foremost toward our internal affairs.

Only five minutes ago we met Boris Nikolayevich and our comrades-in-arms from this very difficult and interesting journey—London-New York-Washington-Camp David-Ottawa. Once again we satisfied ourselves that Russia has proposed to the whole world its own fundamental approach connected with decisive disarmament and demilitarization of our economy, while at the same time being seen to develop everything which has been achieved during recent years within the framework of international relations. Russia also contributed fundamentally to new ideas, the essence of which is to try to achieve these initiatives being implemented in harmony with our economic problems today. This should ensure that demilitarization will be guaranteed by the social protection of both the armed forces and employees of defense works, and to ensure that conversion will not take place at the expense of the technological basis which has, to a large extent, been accumulated by the special military and industrial complex enterprises during these years. And the main thing is that our partners in Europe, in the West, and throughout the world have satisfied themselves about how consistently, decisively, and dynamically Russia is independently entering the world arena today.

[Khudobina] No one in the world has any doubts that the statement by the two presidents makes our world safer. However, a number of experts are expressing some fears. Was the program announced by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin not adopted too hurriedly? Is such an accelerated elimination of thousands of weapons necessary? Will this not finally inflict a crippling blow on our environment? And how will this affect our economy? Was it necessary to reduce the seven-year program to three years and moreover, three years which will probably be the most difficult?

[Burbulis] I should like to assure you that, when the proposed initiatives were put forward, each of these questions arose and we have a detailed answer to them. Our credo is to avoid making public statements in order to please people or in order for things to look striking or unique. All these initiatives have a direct connection with our budgetary policy today. And we are already reducing arms expenditure now, together with the Supreme Soviet. These initiatives are also linked to our policies in the sphere of ecology, since the dismantling of nuclear weapons is really an extreme scientific, technical, and financial and economic task. And finally we would in no way wish these initiatives to be considered as—excuse me—undressing in front of our Western

partners, including with regard to the issue of security. I assure you once more, there is sufficient material which has been forecast and analytically interpreted in the program proposed, and it is more advantageous for Russia and for our reforms. [passage omitted]

[Khudobina] Gennadiy Eduardovich, we have seen that this last week also has been a week of invigoration for all kinds of political trends, parties and so on, a week when political trends united and when preparations were made for the February congress of democratic and patriotic forces. What social base does our government rely on?

[Burbulis] The fact that a polarization of political and social forces in Russia has been under way in January as a result of the proposed reforms—and this, evidently, will culminate in February—is natural for us. That is how it ought to be. What we are talking about is an ever fuller awareness of what we actually are doing. We are changing Russia's social system, we are changing the style of life, we are changing the economic system. The fact that the reforms currently have a specific social base also is quite obvious. We would like the popularly elected president and his comrades-in-arms to find support in all sections of society, and find accord among many, many political parties. But a time probably has come to emphatically identify, from all of the groups—professionally based, age-based, and politically based associations—those that support the reforms most clearly, consistently, and definitely, and thereby, in theory perhaps, create a party of reforms in Russia. I am now coming to believe this, too, more and more, and I believe that this will come about in the coming days or weeks.

[Khudobina] Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy criticized the government when writing in the press this week. He called the first steps along the road of reform "clumsy and often experimental"—I quote. How accurate is this?

[Burbulis] I believe that in his article in PRAVDA he set out his standpoint quite clearly, honestly, and definitely. His meaning is obvious: The reforms being pursued are not to his liking. He does not understand them, and he does not accept them. As a human being, as an individual, he is entitled to this. As vice president, constitutionally elected and bearing responsibility for his tenure in this office, it seems to me that he is not entitled to this. And so, his appeals to the patriots of Russia, his endless references to our Russian history which, he alleges, someone is now trying to ignore with our reforms, are, in the first place, I believe, fairly risky, and second, largely unobjective. And so, notwithstanding all the human pain which Rutskoy radiates, and notwithstanding all my sympathy for him as a man, as a citizen, I believe that a time is coming when Aleksandr Vladimirovich has to decide his position.

[Khudobina] As the majority of politicians note, nothing of this sort would have been possible in any other

presidential cabinet in any other country—this statement by our vice president. Is it the result of a thorough analysis of the economic situation, or does it represent an inability to find his own place alongside the policies of the current process of reforms?

[Burbulis] It represents, to a great extent, Soviet illusions: When people try to solve very complex historical problems with a call for order, for discipline, with a call for our patriotic memory to be recollected and so on. Our credo is that everything which we do permits us to hope for full-blooded state structures in Russia. That is, we are in favor of Russian statehood, we are in favor of a united Russia, but not by order and not by force, but by logical connection, by the very conditions of—first and foremost—economic interaction and cooperation. Our credo is to unite democracy and patriotism in the reforms. [passage omitted]

Ryzhkov Urges 'Intellectual Opposition'

LD0302063492 Moscow TASS in English 0659 GMT
3 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 3 (ITAR-TASS)—“I do not want to make any estimates or draw conclusions now,” former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov said in an interview with the weekly programme Itogi (Results) on the first television channel, touching upon the outcome of the first month of economic reforms. The interview was broadcast on Sunday [2 February] night.

At present “it is essential to help the government. It is necessary to forget who is a red, a white, a radical, a conservative or a centrist,” he said.

“I think that, firstly, there should be some kind of intellectual opposition,” the ex-premier said. Ryzhkov believes that such an opposition could involve scientists, practitioners, directors of some enterprises and agricultural specialists.

“Let them sit down at the negotiating table and discuss this or that issue and make suggestions to the government. It is the job of the government to accept or reject their suggestions”, Ryzhkov maintains.

He expressed regret that the present authorities were not in a hurry to draw on his knowledge and experience.

With this interview the Itogi TV programme launched a series of meetings with former leaders who will be invited to share their views as experts.

Yeltsin Aide Cited on CIS Concept's Formulation

PM3101163992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 30 Jan 92 p 4

[Reader's Query answered: “Commonwealth of Independent States Was Not Yeltsin's Improvisation”—first two paragraphs comprise reader's letter]

[Text] Please ask those closest to B. Yeltsin whether it is true that the Minsk Agreements were by no means spontaneous and that they were prepared well in advance. Or will we yet again find out the truth some 20 years from now...

[signed] V. Samoylov, St. Petersburg.

G. Starovoytova, RSFSR people's deputy and adviser to the President of the Russian Federation:

“Of course, the Minsk Agreements were a skillful maneuver by President Yeltsin because this was done in December, one week after the referendum in the Ukraine when everybody there was full of independence euphoria. Nevertheless, it was the Slav state leaders whom Yeltsin succeeded in bringing together. Obviously, it was his only chance at that time to involve the Ukraine in some kind of agreement process. This was not improvisation.

“Boris Nikolayevich spent a long time preparing for this. As his adviser on national questions, he summoned me approximately 10 days before the referendum in the Ukraine and expressed an interest in my forecasts: How will they vote in the Ukraine? What percentage supports independence? I said: Between 75 and 80 percent. He was surprised, suggesting that it would be less. In actual fact it was even more. This had been helped by the previous week's cutting statements by Mikhail Gorbachev which had given Kravchuk a chance to respond sharply. This increased Kravchuk's ratings and thus he won the elections at the first round.

“Then Boris Nikolayevich said: ‘I think I will summon the leaders of the Slav republics to Minsk and try to reach agreement there.’ We simply kept certain details secret from the press, but everything had been discussed earlier.”

Russian Party Rally Stakes 'Claim on Power'

LD0202165692 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT
2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 2 TASS—The Russian Party has staked claim on power. The Russian Party and the local organisation of the Russian Patriotic Movement called a rally. Residents of St. Petersburg were stunned by their announcement that “a truly-Russian public government had already been formed in Moscow”, and that it is headed by Viktor Korchagin who is not known in St. Petersburg.

Speakers declared that “it is time to seize power” and that “real life” will then begin. The speakers proclaimed the determination “to put an end to Russia's plunder by transnational Zionist corporations and to nationalise their property”.

Many speakers, gathering crowds of 200-300 people, promised that after the “Russian Party” comes into

office, everyone will receive 300-400 thousand roubles of registered shares and will be able to start a businesses [as received].

Trade Union Official Denies Communist Influence

LD0202110392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The Moscow newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA recently published something quite sensational. It said the Center for Independent Research in Moscow had presented President Boris Yeltsin with a report about underground regional committees of the Communist Party still functioning in a number of regions of Russia. These committees, it was reported, are secretly directing regional executive bodies and labor unions. Is that how it really is? In an interview with our reporter, the head of Russia's Federation of Independent Labor Unions' press service, (Nikolay Otkritov), said this:

[(Otkritov) is heard briefly, fading into English translation] In many regions of Russia former party workers really do head union organizations. It is therefore possible that there is a grain of truth in this report. However, there is no official confirmation that Russia's labor unions are influenced by underground Communist Party structures. This is not possible. In 1990, when the Federation of Independent Labor Unions was formed, we immediately proclaimed our independence of any party and we continue to firmly stand by that.

The same report speaks of underground party structures preparing for—and we quote—an explosion of strikes throughout Russia. And this explosion is to be triggered after 1 February. Again, here is (Nikolay Otkritov):

[(Otkritov) is heard briefly, fading into English translation] Since 17 January there have been protest actions throughout Russia supporting the demands of the country's independent unions. However, the situation changes every day. In a poll conducted at the 116 union centers of the Federation, a majority did not favor a two-hour preliminary strike set for 27 January. I therefore believe that there are no grounds to expect these strikes all over Russia supposedly set for February. Our federation is in complete control of the situation.

And here is the opinion of Mikhail Shmakhov, the chairman of the Moscow Federation of Labor Unions:

[Shmakhov is heard briefly, fading into English translation] In my opinion, this is just a provocative statement about labor unions. As for the Moscow Federation, we can categorically say that we are not connected with and have no relations in any way with any underground party structures. As for the protest acts and meetings taking place at work places, they are intended to bring the problems worrying many people to everybody's attention. They are also taking place in order to establish civilized relations between the government, the unions, and workers in resolving disputes.

Nevertheless, President Yeltsin was officially informed about the influence of former party structures on union centers, apparently as this was advantageous to someone. Again, let's hear from (Nikolay Otkritov):

[(Otkritov) is heard briefly, fading into English translation] I believe that this was advantageous to the underground party regional committees and former party structures, if they do indeed exist. In my opinion, they pursue the goal of breaking up the only remaining powerful and organized social movement. Of course, there have been many shortcomings in the work of the labor movement over the past few years. However, in the one year of its existence Russia's Federation of Independent Labor Unions has proved it is capable of protecting the interests of workers at the highest level.

Free Democratic Party Council Opens Meeting

LD0102175292 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 1 TASS—A meeting of the republican council of the Free Democratic Party of Russia, which opened today, demanded the convocation of the all-Russian constituent assembly. Participants in the meeting believe that power has been seized by the nomenklatura operating underground, which sabotages and tramples underfoot the declaration of Russia's sovereignty, the resolution on the mechanism of people's power and the presidential decree on banning the activities of the Soviet Communist Party on the territory of the republic.

According to Marina Salie, co-chairperson of the Free Democratic Party, serious differences have emerged between the party and some leaders of the Democratic Russia movement. In her opinion, the present Russian Government should be supported, but it is necessary to point to its mistakes.

However, Democratic Russia is showing the trend towards becoming a pro-government organisation, which cannot be fully independent. There is opposition to some of planned reforms inside Democratic Russia, Salie believes. Members of the St. Petersburg branch of the Free Democratic Party of Russia do not like the way politicians, who were their colleagues not so long ago, are striving for supercentralization in organising matters.

The meeting of the republican council was attended by representatives of Arkhangelsk, Moscow, Smolensk and other Russian cities. On Sunday [2 February] the meeting will continue the discussion of the strategy and tactics of preparations for the convocation of the constituent assembly. Corruption in top echelons of power will be another topic of discussion tomorrow.

Minister Denies Nuclear Physicists' Emigration
OW3101150092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's minister of science, higher education and technical policy Boris Saltykov has categorically dismissed the rumours that some nuclear physicists emigrated or intend to emigrate. Not a single nuclear physicist has left the country, he told newsmen in Moscow on Friday [31 January]. It was decided to preserve the status of closed cities for the centers of nuclear research Arzamas-16 and Krasnoyarsk-70, Saltykov said. The status of scientists working there will be maintained accordingly. According to the minister, he doesn't know why the time for Sergey Krikalev's return from the orbital station was altered. "The reasons for this can be different", he said. "Perhaps they are purely technical, perhaps financial". "If human health is at risk, we'll spare no money to enable the cosmonaut in question to return to earth", he stressed.

Further on Remarks

LD0202072192 Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT
31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 31 (ITAR-TASS)—Two of Russia's nuclear centres, the cities Arzamas-16 and Krasnoyarsk-70, have been granted special status by the Russian Government, according to Boris Saltykov, minister of science, higher education and technical policy.

The minister told a news conference here today that the cities in which nuclear weapons are developed are to be listed as federal property. Buildings, structures and enterprises located there may not be privatized.

"The Russian president has instructed the government to generate resources to compensate scientists working there for inflationary losses," the minister said.

Saltykov denied rumours that several Russian nuclear scientists are now working as nuclear specialists in Libya and Iraq.

Saltykov said that between 500 and 600 scientists working in the Russian academy's research centres have signed contracts to work in Europe, the United States, Israel and Japan for periods between 12 months and three years.

"Top class specialists in mathematics, physics, biology, biotechnology and chemistry are leaving," he added.

As for the current crisis in Russian science, Saltykov said "it doesn't differ much from the situation in other fields" of the republic's economic and public life.

"The government policy in the field of science consists of organizing our retreat with minimum losses, and not of discussing offensive operations," the minister said.

Institute Gauges Yeltsin's Popularity

LD0102001192 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT
28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow January 28 (TASS)—According to the results of a poll, conducted in Moscow this January by the Institute of Sociology together with the Moscow Sociological Agency, almost 32.8 per cent of Muscovites (the third part) expressed their full confidence in Boris Yeltsin.

14.1 per cent of citizens spoke strongly against the Russian president, and 7.9 per cent were less negative. Practically every fifth of those polled of Muscovites (19.6 per cent) answered, "I rather trust him than not" just as those, who held "to the golden mean".

As for unemployed people, who lead among Yeltsin critics (27.3 per cent), the average of positive and negative answers totalled 36.4 per cent. Workers of joint-stock societies and stock exchanges turned out to be Boris Yeltsin's most active supporters: 46.9 per cent completely approved of his policy. They were followed by 60 year olds and other senior citizens (41.2 per cent).

On the whole, the following categories were positive in their attitude to Boris Yeltsin: people between 18-30 and 46-59 years old, service people, pensioners and housewives, students, joint venture workers. The average number of women, who spoke in favour of Boris Yeltsin was 4 per cent higher than that of men.

Almost 14 per cent of the polled Muscovites approved in January of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's activity before resignation, 39.3 found it on the whole positive and 38.9 claimed it was completely negative.

Gaydar Cited on Budget, Debt, Other Issues

LD0102223292 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT
27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris January 27 TASS—"The Russian economy cannot be privatised within a fortnight. At the same time, we cannot afford to wait another ten years for market mechanisms to be created", Deputy Premier of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar said in an interview with LES ECHOS, the newspaper of the French business circles. The newspaper ran the interview on Monday [27 January].

Gaydar said privatisation, which has been started six years back, would proceed as quickly as possible. "We will not lag behind other East European countries which began the transfer to the market economy earlier", he said.

Gaydar said that the budget for the first quarter of 1992, endorsed last week, and envisaging a deficit of barely one percent of Gross National Product [GNP], is based on realities. The minimum budgetary deficit is not an end in itself. "I would be quite pleased if the deficit in the first three months under the budget made up six percent of GNP, as this would mean slashing the deficit by half compared to the previous year". Gaydar said the budget should be austere for the reform to continue, even if this leads to some socio-political crises.

Gaydar said that radical cuts in the military spending envisaged by the budget mean a political rather than an economic success. The economy must be much more influenced by considerable decrease of subsidies for agriculture as they proved to be utterly ineffective. State capital investments in the economy will be cut by half and possibly more. This meets the spirit of the policy of nationalisation.

Gaydar emphasised the importance of stabilizing the ruble. The existing rate of exchange of the ruble against the dollar has nothing to do with the economic realities and enhances difficulties in Russia's foreign trade.

"If the ruble remains as weak against the dollar, this will seriously affect our programme of economic reform", Gaydar said. "The inflation rate will remain very high, and it will be necessary to raise the pay". It will be difficult to overcome the vicious circle of wage and price increases. In the next six months, there will be a need for an austere financial policy, otherwise the spiralling of inflation and fall-off of production are inevitable.

Gaydar said that the West will hardly help Russia set up the fund for stabilising the ruble, but this will not interfere with reform. It will make its burden heavier on the population, though, and enhance the risk of a socio-political explosion which is dangerous for the Commonwealth of Independent States and the whole world.

Regarding the problem of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, the deputy premier said that in the memorandum signed jointly with representatives of the International Monetary Fund in November 1991, leaders of eight Republics pledged themselves to honour the USSR's external obligations. "The problem is that nobody but Russia makes such payments as yet", Gaydar said.

Asked if there is a possibility of the introduction of the Russian currency to replace the ruble, he said the Russian leadership is not striving for this. It believes it is best to preserve the ruble as the common unit of payments.

'Certain Corrections' in Reform Planned

*LD0302143792 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT
3 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—The Russian Government is ready to introduce certain corrections into the reform process, but will not resign, according to a Russian deputy prime minister. "I am not going to resign and shall continue with the reforms we have chosen", Yegor Gaydar told reporters on Monday [3 February].

But the government is ready to introduce certain corrections to its plans to keep prices from further growth and to make monopolists in the country set reasonable prices for their produce, according to Gaydar. "In principle, it is possible to introduce certain corrections into the mechanism of paying the value added tax", he said. "Undoubtedly, we shall have to correct the social programmes" and give additional compensations, Gaydar added.

He also said the situation on certain goods markets is stabilising of late.

Gaydar added he stands for a strict control of prices, but by such means which "will not break the market mechanism". "Our strategy is free prices. The price growth should hit the normal macroeconomic ceiling formed by total demand". But the main means of controlling prices is a tough credit, monetary and financial policy, Gaydar said.

Deputy Finance Minister Discusses Prices

*LD3101233292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2025 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Interview with Andrey Nechayev, Russian first deputy minister of economy and finance, by correspondent Valeriy Skvortsov in Moscow; date not given—live or recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Skvortsov] Andrey Alekseyevich, let us begin with the main question of interest to everyone in Russia today: Will there be another substantial rise in prices: retail prices, and above all, food prices?

[Nechayev] In a news program yesterday [30 January], or rather, the Vremya program [as heard], it was announced, quoting a statement by Yegor Gaydar, that prices will double in February and go up by a further 450 percent in March. The government has made no such announcement and moreover no such figures appear in the estimates and projections we work with. It seems to me that, if we maintain the policy we are endeavouring to pursue at the present time, there will be no such price rise.

A word or two more regarding the rumors which were aired, by the way, in that same program and a number of others, and which now seem to be worrying everyone; namely, the determined stirring up of tension over the monetary reform, which allegedly is imminent.

I also can state that with full responsibility here. [15-second loss of reception]...finances but also the government as a whole that, first, we always have worked on the

assumption that it would be more advantageous to preserve the ruble and a ruble zone on the territory of the former Soviet Union. We always have regarded monetary reform exclusively as a protective measure if the other republics, and I have in mind above all the big republics like Ukraine, introduce their own currency.

As far as specific dates are concerned, I also can state with complete responsibility that the issue of monetary reform as a reality is not going to be on the agenda not just for the next few weeks, but also for the next few months, certainly at least two or three months. We simply are incapable of doing it even from the technical point of view.

[Skvortsov] As far as we know, certain republics already are making preparations for a switch to their own currency. If monetary reform does take place, no matter what the timing is, what form will it take?

[Nechayev] There will be a change in the level of prices, with a one-for-one exchange of money. So, we do not intend to confiscate anything, and it is naturally simpler for it to be done via the savings banks. The savings of the population simply will be added up in the appropriate manner. But, as far as Russians are concerned, we will exchange everything in such a way that they do not lose their incomes and savings. It is another matter that, for the residents of other republics, the issue will be considered differently, and, naturally, our reform will aim to protect us from depreciating rubles from other republics; and so we shall adopt maximum restrictive measures of some kind.

[Skvortsov] So, monetary reform will above all involve a switch to our own currency, and will not to any extent be aimed at syphoning off excess money from the population?

[Nechayev] No. The problem of the monetary overhang, as it is called—in other words, the unsatisfied demand—does exist, but we have no intention of solving it by means of monetary reform. That process actually is underway now, at the cost of price increases. Naturally, a certain proportion of the savings not only of the population, but also of enterprises, is objectively losing value.

[Skvortsov] The freeing of prices has not brought an abundance of food and other goods in the shops. The decline in production continues. Why?

[Nechayev] The producers have now taken advantage of the right to set their own prices and tried—I do not hesitate to use this word—to cram into their expenses all their imaginable and unimaginable costs, and in many cases to establish a profitability that they never had and could not even have dreamt of. It is the stereotyped notion that if the price has been set, it is set for good. That always has been the science of a planned economy. The fact that restrictions of demand may operate, that

the commodity will not be bought—actually the miscalculation in setting the prices has not really been taken on board by anyone.

So, what do we really observe now? The price of many goods indeed is very high. For both the population and other producers, the first reaction is not to buy. We also can observe instances of shops returning goods to producers, instances of refusals to buy, instances of contracts not being honored. So, the first natural reaction is a fall in supply.

On the other hand, the producer has to... [Nechayev changes thought] He cannot allow the slump to go on forever and just lock up his factory. He has to repay loans and pay wages and so on. So, as yet, the first, very small, but for us professionals at least, very promising signs that the restriction of demand has begun to work is falling prices.

We presently are experiencing gigantic pressure from both trade unions and workers of various sectors, as well as by enterprises and industries aimed at making us increase wages and provide them with capital investments and budgetary financing. We only can give them what we have. This is exactly what we are trying to do for the first time; namely, to give, within the framework of the budget, what we think that we can earn, and not just print money.

Take, for example, the increase in prices, which currently is being hiked artificially from below at a time when the demand is subdued. If we show certain firmness with regard to the distribution of the budget and the population shows some patience with regard to its request for increased income, I am deeply convinced that this jump in prices will start to go down quite fast.

If we manage to restrict the inflow of additional currency, we believe that, as of the middle of the year, we will manage to stop the high inflationary growth of prices. The growth of prices will be in the region of 10 percent per month. That also is quite high, but it is approximately what we had in 1991.

[Skvortsov] So, prices will continue to grow in the near future?

[Nechayev] Prices will continue to rise, but not at a rate, not at all at a rate, that we witnessed in January when they shot up. We will release regulated prices gradually, including prices for fuel and transport tariffs. But, at present, we have no problem of this kind with regard to fuel.

[Skvortsov] Do you have a feeling that the liberation of prices has failed to bring the expected results?

[Nechayev] No, nothing unexpected has happened. A normal process is underway now whereby consumers and producers are adjusting to the new system of price-setting. There has been no instantaneous reaction to the liberalization of prices from the point of view of production and the expansion of production, and there cannot

be any. The free prices which reflect real costs and the real correlation between supply and demand are the necessary condition for production to develop normally.

In our country, all the same, there is in some sense a new and, if you wish, even unique situation now. For the majority of the population, myriad opportunities, interesting opportunities, have emerged. Just look around, and I am sure everyone will see a way out of the situation for himself. If everyone finds such a way out for himself, then, no doubt, we shall all find it together.

Draft Budget for First Quarter Assessed

924C0490A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mikhail Leontyev: "The Russian Government Has Almost Balanced the Budget Although, True, Only on Paper So Far"]

[Text] The strategic goal of the financial policy declared by the Russian Government was to eliminate the budget deficit. The draft of the State Budget System for the first quarter of 1992 makes it possible to anticipate the extent to which and the means by which the goal will be reached.

It is quite natural that the government tried to do this by reducing the expenditure component and increasing the revenue component. One must give the government its due and say that state expenditures have been reduced as much as possible. The state investments in the amount of 33 billion rubles [R], taking inflation into account, may be seen as a physiological solution supporting dim signs of life in the organism of the state economy.

Summary Financial Balance for First Quarter of 1992 for the Russian Federation (plan); Revenues in billions of rubles

Profit—415.1
Value added and exise tax—166.1
Money for forming social insurance fund and pension fund—145.7
Revenues from foreign economic activity—228.0
Amortization deductions—25.4
State taxes from the population—19.2
Money in funds for scientific research work and conversion of production—27.6
Other revenues of economic organizations and budget—42.3
SUBTOTAL REVENUES—1,063.4
Money from de-state-ization and privatization of property—8.3
TOTAL REVENUES—1,071.7

Expenditures on social needs, including ambitious social programs, were scheduled not by the government but by the parliament, which has been mentioned frequently by "Gaydar people." The only means the government has left to fight these expenditures is to allow them to be

depreciated by prior inflation. Direct military expenditures (mainly for buying arms) have been cut by a factor of eight, but the effect is somewhat eroded by the higher cost of maintaining the army caused by the price increases. The R10 billion earmarked in the conversion fund can be considered an indirect form of military expenditures which maintain the viability of the military-industrial complex, but they cannot be called excessive.

EXPENDITURES (billions of rubles)

Expenditures on state capital investments (taking into account higher construction costs)—33.0
Subsidies for agricultural products and other subsidies—27.5
Expenditures related to foreign economic activity—220.0
Expenditures of enterprises from profit remaining at their disposal after payment of taxes and also from amortization—380.3
Expenditures on budget-financed sociocultural measures and also the social insurance fund, pension fund, and social security fund (not including capital investments)—226.5
Money transferred for financing general military expenditures—50.4
Expenditures on maintaining organs of state power and law enforcement organs (not including capital investments)—16.8
Expenditures on formation of reserve funds—2.2
Other expenditures of budget and economic organizations—125.3
TOTAL EXPENDITURES—1,082.0
SHORTAGE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES—10.3

The main item of budget expenditures were sociocultural measures (free public health and education and also various kinds of compensations) which exceed the military budget by a factor of more than 1.5. The only ways to reduce these expenditures are through organized dismantling of the social sphere, which is fraught with absolutely certain consequences, or through the transformation of this system according to reimbursement principles, which takes time. The only item of expenditures which could be eliminated in principle is the subsidy for maintaining regulated prices. But the government has not decided to do this yet, fearing an even sharper price increase. The vulnerable point in the calculation of budget expenditures, like the whole budget system, is the impossibility of determining the dynamics of inflation, which the government recognizes. Thus even now one can assume that the expenditures may go far beyond the calculated indicators.

Government budget developments hinge upon an extremely rough estimate of the dynamic of socioeconomic development, which envisions a more than 18-percent drop in the amount of national income in the first quarter of 1992 as compared to the last quarter of 1991. This prediction relies primarily on inevitable production cutting because of the violation of traditional

ties, but it does not take into account its possible reduction in keeping with the principle of high taxation and the attendant need to maintain monopolistically high prices. As before, the government thinks (or acts as though it thinks) that the taxes are quite acceptable and the figures for the proposed revenue from taxes are the most reliable part of the budget plan.

The greatest amount of income is expected from the value added tax (VAT), revenues from which have been calculated at the level of approximately 70 percent of the full amount of withholding. But many specialists consider this percentage too optimistic. The tax on profit is calculated at 20 percent of the overall calculated amount: Here certain tax benefits are taken into account (mainly in the agroindustrial sector), but, one must assume, mass concealment of profit, which is difficult to predict, has not been taken into account. Therefore one must speak even less confidently of the validity of the calculation of revenues than one speaks of the calculation of expenditures.

It should be noted that the government has still shown spineless liberalism in allowing an indirect tax benefit for investments: Enterprises are permitted to "index" twice the norm of amortization deductions for full restoration of fixed capital and this shelter an additional transaction from taxes. But in the context of the overall tax atmosphere this concession reminds one of a thoroughly chewed bone.

As a result, the government did not succeed in creating a deficit-free budget for the first quarter of 1992 even on paper. The modest figure of R10 billion might very likely be increased, for example, with part of the planned hypothetical revenues from privatization which, incidentally, the government itself did not intend to include in the budget. Gaydar quite correctly noted that any budget deficit is covered by taxes. And the deputy prime minister thinks it is better for this to be a civilized tax paid into the budget than a barbaric inflation tax which devalues the incomes of the workers.

But one can agree with this point only partially. Within certain limits it is better not to smother production and business activity for the sake of preserving the incomes of the masses than to transform them into an unemployed crowd.

Stage of 'Catastrophic Price Increases' Passed

LD0202170992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT
2 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Irina Mishina] Exactly a month has passed since the liberalization of prices. It is time to sum up some results. The State Committee for Statistics reports that average monthly expenses on foodstuffs and other essential goods have increased up to 1,300 rubles [R] per head per month. The average monthly living expenses in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent

States] amounted to approximately R340 a month per head before the liberalization of prices. Two and a half million people have two jobs now.

Prices will go up in February, Aleksey Ulyukayev, economic adviser to the Russian government, said in an interview to our television agency. At the same time, according to him, prices have nearly reached their ceiling and will soon stop rising. As for February, here is his forecast:

[Begin recording] [Ulyukayev] There are reasons to think now that in February the rise in prices will slow down considerably. The greater part of the rise will come in January, and the smaller in February. So the forecast for two months, so to speak, will more or less remain in force.

[Mishina] Does this mean that we have passed the peak of price rises?

[Ulyukayev] We think, yes, we have. There will be no price rises any more, only on separate trade items. Perhaps 5 percent, perhaps 7 percent, or perhaps 15 percent. But there will certainly not be catastrophic price increases amounting to hundreds of percent. We have passed this stage. [end recording]

National Income Reportedly To Drop 14 Percent

OW3101165492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1613 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's national income will drop in the first quarter of 1992 by 14% compared with the same period last year. Throughout 1992 production is expected to decline by 30-35% and unemployment to reach 15-20 million people. Such is the economic forecast by experts of the independent research center "Makroekon".

Industrial output will fall by 11% against the same period last year. The oil-extracting industry will suffer a 12-13% decline in production, the electric power industry - 5%, the non-ferrous metallurgy - from 6 to 13%, the agriculture - 10%. Experts say prices are unlikely to stabilize in the first quarter of 1992. According to their estimates, wholesale prices will rise during the first quarter of 1992 by 400-500% against the level of late 1991, production of consumer goods will decline by 15-20%, the volume of sales in private and state trade systems will fall by 10-12%.

Yavlinskiy Warns of Dangers of Hyperinflation

LD0202072392 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT
31 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 31 (TASS)—Well-known economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes the reforms will not help the country evade a hyperinflation. "And this will lead to a collapse both in economy and politics", he told the "RUSSIA" newspaper on Friday [31 January].

The problem of hyperinflation is the most urgent one. "All efforts should be joined to avoid it", Yavlinskiy said, and added the principle proclaimed today, that spiralling inflation will help balance economy, is "beyond all risks". Besides, inflation will stall privatisation, he stressed.

The economist criticised the process of reforms. "I have big doubts about what and how is being done", he said.

Although Yavlinskiy supported the free market prices introduction as a condition of establishing a market economy and improving life, he nevertheless called on the government "to respect certain rules of the game". He compared the present-day government with a chess player who confuses the moves in the game.

Yavlinskiy is sure the former Soviet republics should conclude a treaty to boost economic reforms. "Economic cooperation is very important, as is the help of the world financial organisations", he said.

A chain reaction may follow the collapse of the Soviet Union and result in a collapse of the Russian statehood, Yavlinskiy warned, but added the chain reaction can be stopped by "a powerful policy with clear prospects".

An honest and professional opposition, capable of constructive actions, is necessary today more than ever, Yavlinskiy said. The opposition's main task is to prevent reactionary and chauvinistic forces from coming to power, he explained.

Economists Assess Anti-Inflation Effort

LD0302031292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] By the end of the first quarter of this year inflation will reach 1,200 percent. This collapse, according to assurances by Yegor Gaydar, is under control and is developing in keeping with the government's plans. In this connection, the opinion of the experts is of interest.

The group of experts under Yevgeniy Yasin admits that the government's measures are in principle correct, but thinks that it will not be persistent or consistent enough in liberalizing the economy. The experts say crisis manifestations in Russia will increase for another year or two. They offer possible scenarios of the development of events. Here are the most probable:

[Begin unidentified speaker's recording] There will be inflation at a level of about 250-500 percent over the year. There will be quite a large budget deficit which will gradually be reduced. The market imbalance will continue. That means that the government is going to have to redouble its efforts over a long period in the sphere of the stabilization program. [end recording]

That is the scenario that Academician Bunich is inclined to favour. But he rejects the government's strategy of aiming for a no-deficit budget to the detriment of the commodity production. Here's his prediction:

[Begin Bunich recording] It will in general meet with both active and passive resistance. Perhaps it was not expected. The government will back pedal on vital issues. We should not abuse it for this. The faster it does so the sooner it will stabilize certain moods in society. Without this we cannot move forward. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Oil Revenues To Purchase Unrefined Sugar

LD0302122292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The Russian Government has directed that most of the hard currency earned from the export of oil and petroleum products is to be spent on imports of unrefined sugar. The republic's foreign trade organizations have been instructed to hold talks with foreign firms and to purchase 400,000 tonnes of unrefined sugar worth almost \$101,000,000.

Customs Committee Outlines New Regulations

LD0102135192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Customs Committee explained its new regulations today. What lies in store for us? Until 1 April and the introduction of new customs rates, all imports will be admitted to Russian territory without customs duties or other levies. The old import duty has been lifted. The export situation is also undergoing profound change. A single licensing procedure is being introduced in Russia [passage indistinct] and quotas, regulating the quantity of goods. As of 1 [word indistinct] it will be necessary to declare all goods included in the quotas. As of 1 July, all goods brought into or taken out of Russian territory will be subject to compulsory customs registration.

In addition, a special export duty on Russian raw materials has been introduced to take effect from 1 January. It also covers barter goods. Such measures apply to exports to all countries other than Commonwealth members. It is expected that high export duties will force the exporters to sell their goods at prices close to international prices, enable hard currency profit returns to be traced, and patch some of the holes in the Russian budget. For the moment, all changes in customs relate only to producers and whole-sale traders.

Last year's rules are still in force for ordinary citizens. These include the rule by which 300 rubles worth of goods may be exported and \$200 which must be declared at the border.

Government Endorses Subsidies for Agriculture

*LD0202123492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 0800 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] The Russian Government has endorsed 6.5 billion rubles' worth of subsidies to farmers for the current year. The decision was announced in Moscow on the eve of a farmers' conference opening here on Monday [3 February].

There are 62,000 farmers in Russia and by the end of this year the number is expected to reach 150,000. Despite official and public support, individual farms are being established with great difficulties, since the problem of land property remains unresolved and there is lack of equipment. As it was said at the congress of the Peasants' Party, which opened in Moscow on Saturday [1 February], farmers' share in Russia's agricultural produce makes up only 2 percent.

62 Percent Doubt Monetary Reform Assurances

*PM0302092392 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI
in Russian No 4, 26 Jan 92 (signed to press 21 Jan) p 2*

[Unattributed "MN" (MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI) Express Poll"]

[Text] "The Russian Government gives its assurance that there will be no monetary reform in the near future. Do you believe this or not?"

Yes—20 percent

No—62 percent

Hard to say—18 percent

The poll was commissioned by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI and carried out 18-19 January by the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions with the assistance of the "Public Opinion" foundation. Some 1,070 people were polled in 14 Russian cities.

Supreme Soviet

Burbulis Cited on 1 Feb Parliament Session

*LD0102213292 Moscow Russian Television
Network in Russian 1545 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Interview with Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, by Sergey Nosovets, member of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, on 1 February; place not given; from the "Russian Parliamentary Herald" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Nosovets] We constantly draw your attention to our aspiration, aspiration by the Russian Parliament, to work in a most close contact with the Government. How it works, perhaps, is not for us to judge; perhaps your assessments are important here. But I would like to draw

your attention to the fact that today—at the weekend, on Saturday—a regular businesslike and specific meeting between the government and the Parliament leadership is held.

Gennadiy Eduardovich, can one say that these joint meetings and a joint search of ways out of these complicated situations have become normal practice everywhere?

[Burbulis] This is obvious; both tasks, principles, and rules. The point is we simply start understanding more and more clearly the meaning of the reform, as well as the practical way toward it. For example, today's work was of a totally specific nature and consisted of the following: We worked through a joint resolution draft by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the government in reply to conclusions after the first month of the liberalization of prices, and to those real conditions in which the people of Russia have found themselves. In particular, our document proposes to abolish value added tax in public catering enterprises in student, school, and preschool institutions, medical institutions, and social and cultural institutions on products of their own manufacture. We make this decision with a clear conscience. It in no way exposes to revision the basic principles of our financial and budget policy. At the same time it is an efficient reaction to the situation in certain spheres of industry and public life, and in a normal and real way it protects this milieu.

The second subject of this document: We have ensured that the tax rate on all essential goods needs to be corrected. We are correcting it considerably: on flour, pasta products, dairy products—milk, cottage cheese, sour cream—and this is natural for us. Rather than be obstinate—a principle for the sake of a principle—we try to correct the cause of reforms, bearing in mind that the majority of Russian inhabitants share its aims and accept its possible final results. At the same time not everyone is subject to the same conditions in this difficult life situation.

[Nosovets] Indeed, you had certain aims by presenting the draft of the whole taxation legislation to the Supreme Soviet. Also, arguments convinced a considerable section in parliament—you received support. But are you happy with the process of the implementation of this taxation legislation?

[Burbulis] We understood that its practical implementation would be connected with difficulties of perception and reaction. The most difficult problem is whether our taxation policy ensures the activity of the manufacturer and whether it stimulates him to the extent that is necessary in order to resolve the crisis situation in principle. The most interesting thing is that in reality, during the last month taxes were not received within the framework of the new system.

Already, however, now the conclusion could be made that, in the first place, the concept itself was not properly

explained, in particular we made certain that the application of the value added tax was connected with numerous violations and perversions. Second, we are now urged to introduce tax differentiation, bearing in mind that various enterprises and various industries are not in equal conditions. In particular, to connect this with profitability and—perhaps this decision will be justified—when an enterprise has profitability of more than 50 percent we will think over a possibility of introducing the progressive tax. We think that it would be within the framework of our concept, as well as fair with regard to the starting conditions of the reform, of entering the reform.

The degree of applying the value added tax will be corrected. Our first subject shows that some corrections are appropriate here. We have lifted the customs duty on bringing in foodstuffs and essential goods. At the moment we make the tax rate on export more precise, bearing in mind that there are a whole number of enterprises and industries where the whole rate needs to be given specific expression since the interests of this product and goods exchange today are specific.

In short, our target is to introduce corrections in due time, without giving up the basic principles of the reform, and to find support for this from parliament, from manufacturers, and from the population.

[Nosovets] You mentioned manufacturers or producers. But I would think you can hardly be satisfied with the number of newly appeared or newly appearing sources of goods and services to accompany this reform, particularly for instance in the case of land reform, because this is essential in the present conditions, if we think of privatization, and of land reform, which at the least must go hand in hand with price liberalization.

[Burbulis] This is a very longstanding and thorny issue—whether it was right to introduce price liberalization if we had not first secured privatization in the area of circulation and production of goods, at least to a level of 20-25 percent. I have to say yet again and quite firmly—we had no other way. The task facing us today is absolutely clear. It is to impart dynamism and impulse to the privatization process, both from the viewpoint of higher authorities who set the rules and make the laws, and from the viewpoint of local authorities.

In principle, I am convinced that today we—both the government and parliament—should be shifting our emphasis to practical work at the regional, territorial, industry, and enterprise levels. That is where the pace and cost of reform is really being set today. There are two wings to reform—the strategic one concerned with rules, laws, and policies, and the practical one, in which local authorities, labor collectives, and economic managers find themselves at a distance from the decisions you and I might be making, or else interpret them in a very idiosyncratic way.

So, to put it frankly, one can say that on the one hand there is a gap of understanding and on the other a

reluctance to implement reforms in depth and to their full extent. It is that reluctance which we shall in the near future be doing our best to combat through lawmaking and the rights vested in us. Instead of our traditional concerns about misuse of power I would today point to a new one of failing to make full use of one's powers. That is one of the annoying shortcomings of the present situation which has to be eradicated. Powers have to be fully exercised downward through the vertical structure so that reforms do not grind to a halt, and so that people who have accepted them in essence are able to get actively involved in them on all fronts—in land reform, in the privatization of the means of production, and in the retail circulation of goods and services sectors.

[Nosovets] Actually, I would like to develop that thought, in the sense that rebukes about the state allegedly not being sufficiently governed must be something you hear more often than members of Parliament, for instance. So are you sure that you have, your government has, enough potential—if you understand my meaning—to exercise your functions of government firmly?

[Burbulis] I am convinced that together we are performing vitally essential functions and will see this through to a normal human outcome. At the same time, I am aware of the scale of the unused reserves that exist in the way the government works. These include scope for more precise coordination of management among the various segments of government. These include the need to shift the emphasis to work at local level, which I have already mentioned.

Finally, these include the need for adjustments to the progress of reforms on some of the most vital points—pricing, law enforcement, socially targeted protection, and finally taxation policy, together with the operations of the tax inspectorate. In reality taxes can be collected only when there exists a good supervisory body to ensure that that taxation policy is properly implemented. In other words, I am convinced that we are actually doing everything necessary, but I would make one proviso: namely that we have to rid ourselves finally of those—including some within our own circles of higher executive authority—who will not accept reforms, who are categorically incapable of understanding the content and idea of reforms, and yet who still hang on to the right to speak on behalf of the electors, of the people, who appeal to Russian patriotism, and who thereby do damage to the people they claim to speak for, to the period of history we are all living through and operating in today, and of course when all said and done, to themselves. Ignorance and lack of understanding does not exempt anyone from responsibility for the state of affairs today, none of us.

[Nosovets] Thank you. So, though this is a day off, one can hardly call it such—the government and parliament continue their work, their joint work.

Parliament's 'Duty' To Criticize Government

LD0302110192 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT
3 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—The Russian parliament distinguishes definitely between the activity of President Boris Yeltsin, elected by the people, and the activity of the government, Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov told a congress of the Association of Russian Farmers here today.

"We will be tough in our criticism of the government policy, but we will support the government at critical moments," Khasbulatov said.

"But this by no means implies that we have chosen the tactics of criticizing the president," he stressed.

"I am not one of those who is critical of the president. If I ever feel the temptation to criticize him, I would rather resign from the parliament. Criticizing the executive power is the duty of the parliament," Ruslan Khasbulatov said.

Khasbulatov, Economists Discuss 'Adjustments'

OW0102184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1640 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov received a group of prominent Russian economists, including academicians Leonid Abalkin and Alexey Yemelyanov, Pavel Bunich, in the White House on Krasnopresnenskaya embankment Saturday [1 February].

Abalkin, former head of the Ryzhkov government's state commission on economic reform, told reporters shortly after the meeting that it had focused on adjustments to the economic policy in Russia, in particular, proposals to lift a number of taxes on producers of food, possible preferential loans to farmers, etc. Abalkin said the participants in the meeting had agreed to present concrete recommendations on the economic policy adjustments to the Supreme Council. He noted that the Russian government had conferred with this group of economists for the first time.

Abalkin added that the results of the first month of price liberalization were no surprise for him given the fact that prices were freed amid growing economic crisis and domination of monopolies in the industrial sphere.

Address to Ukrainian Parliament on Fleet

PM0202190792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Address to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet"—IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] Esteemed People's Deputies of Independent Ukraine!

The Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], which was created for the sake of equal cooperation of the peoples and to ensure their security and economic prosperity, was initially founded on the unconditional fulfillment of mutual commitments. In ratifying the agreement on the creation of the CIS, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proceeded from the premise that all Commonwealth member states have both specific and general national interests. The CIS strategic armed forces, which are being created, are called on to protect the common interests of all the Commonwealth's member states.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, expressing its concern at the situation which has developed around the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet, which is an inalienable part of the CIS strategic armed forces, puts the following proposals to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet:

- to acknowledge that the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet as an integrated entity serves to ensure a balance of military-strategic forces in the Mediterranean Basin, thereby protecting the interests of all CIS member states in this region;
- to acknowledge that personnel drafted into the Black Sea Fleet must take the military oath as laid down by the CIS members' agreement for the strategic forces.

In accordance with Article 6 of the agreement on the creation of the CIS on the guarantees and essential conditions of the deployment, functioning, and material and social support of the strategic armed forces, and also on the basis of the 16 January 1992 statement of the CIS heads of state, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposes to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet that a decision be adopted on accelerating constructive talks across the full range of questions connected with the Black Sea Fleet.

[signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

Validation of Crimea's Transfer To Be Examined

PM0202191992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution "On the Decisions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of 19 February 1954 and of the USSR Supreme Soviet of 26 April 1954 on the Removal of the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR," signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, dated Moscow, the House of the Russian Soviets, 23 January 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. That the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic

Ties and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Legislation, together with the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, shall examine the question of the constitutional validity of the decisions to transfer the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] adopted in 1954, and present their findings to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet by 6 February 1992.

2. To address the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet with a proposal to examine the question of the constitutional validity of the decisions to transfer the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR adopted in 1954.

[signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[dated] Moscow, The House of the Russian Soviets, 23 January 1992

Deputy Chairman Discusses Issue

LD0302015492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1540 GMT on 30 January carries the regularly scheduled 15-minute "Parliamentary Herald" program. Russian Federation People's Deputy Igor Zbronzhko interviews S.A. Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Discussing the difficulty of sorting out relations amongst the Commonwealth of Independent States states, Filatov says:

"There are areas such as ecology, the economy, migration, citizenship, human rights and power engineering, particularly nuclear power engineering, which are connected in a single technological process. These areas require that legislation be closely aligned." Consequently, he says, "it is necessary for parliaments to coordinate and align their positions. To achieve this we have agreed, in a first step, to prepare a conference at the level of heads of parliaments at the end of February. An agreement is to be signed at the conference which will establish a council of leaders of supreme soviets as the main coordinating body. They will establish interparliamentary commissions in basic areas which will begin this coordinating activity."

Filatov cites other measures for cooperation among Commonwealth parliaments. Zbronzhko asks: "This striving of the parliaments to get together is natural and understandable. But will this be helped by the decision on the Crimea adopted recently by the Supreme Soviet of Russia?"

Filatov responds: "You know, the change from one qualitative state to another can naturally reveal a number of problems and issues which were previously in the normal run of things. You may recall that when the treaty with the Ukraine was ratified we were still in the Union. The discussion in the Supreme Soviet of the question of borders and the Crimea was quite heated. At that time the Supreme Soviet even stressed that we

recognize the inviolability of borders only as long as we are within the framework of the USSR, within a united state. So, since the USSR has disintegrated naturally many people begin to ask what is to happen to the ratification which we implemented. That is the first thing.

"Second, the question naturally comes up about the legality of the transfer. We all knew that this was taking place within the framework of the USSR so this question was not raised. That was a single space and it affected the interests of very few people. Now, when these are two independent states which tomorrow may be separated by some sort of borders and some conditions, then this question should be determined at least juridically. Although I understand that this is very unpleasant and may be very difficult."

Zbronzhko then remarks: "Perhaps, it is simply not the right time." Filatov says: "It may not be the right time but it must be determined at some stage, it must be resolved at some stage. I am not saying that we should throw everything else aside and concentrate just on that. But this is one of the issues that must be tackled."

Zbronzhko raises the question of various components of the Russian Federation seeking independence. Filatov says that efforts are now being made to achieve a compromise on delimitation of powers. Disintegration would cause worse economic problems.

Subcommittee Chairman Cited

LD3101132192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1545 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Russian Parliamentary Herald" program with Russian Supreme Soviet member Rasul Mikailov and Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich Kozhokin, chairman of the subcommittee on international affairs—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mikailov] During the last few days virtually all of the mass media in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] countries have been commenting on and retelling a resolution recently adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet. Unfortunately, in retelling it certain inaccuracies occur which substantially distort the meaning of the resolution. I refer to the Russian Supreme Soviet's resolution on the 1954 decisions of the Presidium of the Union Supreme Soviet, and of the Union Supreme Soviet itself, on handing over Crimea Oblast from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic to the Ukraine. Why did the Supreme Soviet, at a time when the main activity of the supreme legislative body of the Russian Federation is devoted to such subjects as liberalizing prices, privatization, and the economy in general, suddenly involve itself with adopting a resolution on this subject, which at first glance does not fit in with the legislative acts connected with reorganizing the economy? Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich, I would like you to tell us about the reasons impelling the Supreme Soviet to pass this resolution.

[Kozhokin] The main reason is that neither the deputies nor the Supreme Soviet as a whole exist in a vacuum. We are concerned with the same issues that concern the inhabitants, the citizens. At present, two issues are most under discussion on the streets and at the workplace: The first is prices, expenses, and the threat of famine—this is the most fundamental issue; second place has now been taken by mutual relations between Russia and the Ukraine, the question of the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, and the question of the Crimea. The Supreme Soviet could not pretend that this issue does not exist, especially as the question of the fleet affects the vital interests of Russia, the Ukraine, and effectively all of the member states of the CIS.

Each of the member states of the CIS has different levels of responsibility. In one region, Tajikistan's level of responsibility is higher, in another that of the Ukraine or Russia is higher. It is precisely for this reason, especially after a visit by a group of our deputies to Crimea, to Sevastopol, where they met the command of the Black Sea Fleet and visited its warships, that demands were made to examine this issue at a Supreme Soviet session.

[Mikhailov] I have to say that the Supreme Soviet has in no way made a decision on the return of the Crimea or any similar formulation. What is at issue is instructing the appropriate committees to examine the constitutionality of the 1954 decisions.

[Kozhokin] Certainly. In such a delicate issue, an issue that is so important for millions of people, there has to be precision. It is impermissible that the mass media on occasion distorted the meaning of the resolution. It does not say that the Crimea should be handed over to Russia—God forbid. It says quite clearly that the committee for international affairs and foreign economic links, the committee for legislation—and the Foreign Ministry was also added—are instructed to study the question of the constitutionality of the handover—no more and no less.

It is very important to pay attention to the second point. We are making a similar proposal to study this matter to our colleagues in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The whole point is that the Crimea, like a whole range of other issues, not only divides us, but brings us together with the Ukraine. It is our common task, our common problem, and we have to study it together. [passage omitted]

I think that the existence of such an issue does not prevent the development of our economic, social, and political contacts with the Ukraine. Many states, especially neighboring states, have unresolved issues, including in such areas as mutual territorial problems, but this does not prevent them from developing their relations. For example, we have been quite unable for a long time to resolve the issue of the ownership of four islands with Japan. Nevertheless, we cooperate with Japan and find a common language. It would be better if

this issue did not exist in our relations, but life is life and often creates mind-bending problems.

There are certain memories and there is our history, from which we cannot get away. It would be strange to expect the Russians to forget the whole history of Sevastopol, or the names of Ushakov and Nakhimov [19th century Russian admiral].

There are also questions connected with the future. There are questions connected with the balance of naval forces in the Mediterranean. There is the question of whether the Ukraine, if it alone is going to be responsible for these matters in the Black Sea, will be able to ensure the balance of forces previously ensured by the Soviet Union. I think that we have to discuss these issues in a calm atmosphere at the negotiating table with our colleagues from the Ukrainian parliament.

The most dangerous thing at present is for politicians to try to gain political capital on this issue. Unfortunately, there are such politicians both in the Ukraine, where, it has to be said, the economic situation is only slightly better than in Russia and where economic reforms are progressing with immense difficulty. In such a crisis situation it is very tempting to create the image of an enemy and say that things are not working out here, but this is not our fault. This is not our shortcoming in terms of professionalism or energy; it is the enemy—and the enemy is over there, that is the enemy preventing us from dealing with our issues.

In the same way, we have those who wish... [changes thought] Incidentally, often those deputies who never look at economic problems are very concerned about how to protect the interests of the Russian people, but the most terrible question for the Russian people at present, and for all of the peoples of Russia, is the question of how to live a normal life. These are the issues with which deputies do not want to deal. They only want to deal with military and political issues. [passage omitted]

[Mikhailov] Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich, I would like to dwell on another aspect: How does this resolution, and this way of putting the question in general on finding out the constitutionality or legality of such decisions, reflect on the fate of the people who live in the Crimea? After all, this was embarked upon and all this is being done for their sake.

[Kozhokin] In general terms, it is a point of view that, I think, is accepted generally in the Russian Supreme Soviet. It is my personal point of view that the question of the fate of the people in one locality or another is principally a question for those people. It is very important that there should not be any violence done to the people of the Crimea, so that they can live as they think necessary, speak in their native language, and go to the schools of their choice. It seems to me that there is no need for any diktat, from Moscow or from Kiev or from anywhere else. This is a question of human rights. It is now commonly recognized that this question has no

borders. It has to be said here that in raising this question we are not in breach of the relevant international treaties; on the contrary, we are acting in the spirit of the UN Charter and the CSCE. At present both Russia and the Ukraine are going to be organic participants in this CSCE process.

[Mikhailov] In any case, it seems to me that determining the constitutionality of all the decisions relating to the fate of people living on one territory or another could help realize their rights in greater scope in the negotiating process.

[Kozhokin] Certainly. I think that the question exists in reality. We have to address it together with our colleagues from the Ukraine—not avoid the issue or slide toward political extremism, or adventurism. It is in the nature of politicians to generate difficult, mind-bending questions, but it is also in the nature of politicians, if they deserve the to be called this, to keep a cool head.

'Interparliamentary' Group Holds First Meeting

LD0102195492 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT
1 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—The parliamentary group, which was formed in the Russian Supreme Soviet, convened its first organisational meeting here today.

Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Council of the Republic, was elected head of the new parliamentary group. It comprised both members of the Russian Legislature and Russian People's Deputies who are not represented in any of the parliament's chambers.

Ryabov emphasised that priorities in the group's work would be given to the development of an extensive inter-parliamentary dialogue and vigorous participation in the activity of the interparliamentary union and other international parliamentary organisations.

Deputies will not begin their work on the void. They are fully determined to preserve and boost parliamentary ties formed in the former Union. Starting from 1955, representatives of the USSR parliamentary group took an active part in conferences and meetings of all bodies of the Interparliamentary Union.

Other states of the former Soviet Union also act in this direction. The Baltic States have already joined the Interparliamentary Union. Several Commonwealth states are also expected to enter it, Ryabov noted.

He emphasised that Russian Deputies intend to maintain broad contacts with other international and regional parliamentary organisations such as the Europarlament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the West European Union, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Latin American Parliament and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Official Says Budget 'Doomed to Failure'

LD0102180392 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0741 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Ignatyev]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Jan (TASS)—“The state is hardly going to succeed in living according to its means when this is becoming ever more difficult for every Russian family. For that reason, the intentions of the government to make a deficit-free budget for the republic in the first quarter are also doomed to failure”. This is stated by Eduard Vedernikov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Commission on Budget, Planning, Taxes, and prices.

He explained that the budget deficit last year amounted to 108 billion rubles. The country has been struck by a wave of inflation and demand for goods and services has exceeded supply by a factor of six. In order to avoid approaching the point of hyper-inflation, the government formed a budget of strict economies for the first quarter of this year. The main task defined is to plug the gap in the budget, to strengthen the ruble as far as possible, and, as a final result, to put a stop to falling production by the end of the year and stabilize the economic situation.

In Eduard Vedernikov's opinion, there is no guarantee that the government will be able to form a revenue side of the budget from tax income which comes to the same amount it reckons on. He believes that in conditions of an extremely unstable economy, it will probably be necessary to increase expenditure on budget items already accepted. It is quite likely that extra items of expenditure could also arise: after all, the state is coming into spring, the most difficult period. The government will obviously be compelled to agree to extra help for the lower income population groups.

As for an overall assessment of the budget for the first quarter of this year, the deputy commission chairman noted, it is undoubtedly better composed than last year's. Nevertheless, it lacks a detailed, item-by-item breakdown of revenue and expenditure of budget funds. The expert thinks that this makes it more difficult to monitor the government's financial activities.

Deputies To Pass New Constitution in Apr

LD0302113792 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT
3 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—The Congress of Russian People's Deputies expected to pass a new constitution of the Russian State will meet not later than in April, Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov told a Congress of the Association of Russian Farmers here today.

Speaking about agrarian reform, Khasbulatov pointed out that the laws on reform had been based on the old constitution of Russia as a republic of the former USSR. Because of this, they clamped certain restrictions on radical changes. The situation has changed. The legal base should be made consistent with new realities, Khasbulatov said.

Opposition With 'Serious Alternative' Needed

*PM3001154192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Jan 92 pp 1, 2*

[Report on interview with Russian parliamentarian V. Isakov by Yevgeniy Sorokin under the "Topical Interview" rubric; date and place not given: "The Kind of Opposition That Is Needed"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] History has repeatedly demonstrated that all monopolies of the truth and all boundless power lead not just to the collapse of statehood, but to dictatorship, which in principal are almost the same thing. There is no denying that it irks any ruling cabinet to have a well-organized, cohesive, and strong opposition. But something else is clear too: The wisdom of a ruler lies in his understanding that it is the opposition which makes the pulse of the state organism beat and prevents the emergence of what we have rightly called stagnation.

Unfortunately, the CPSU monopoly in the Russian ruling structures has given place to another. No opposition as such exists unless you count the uncoordinated speeches by certain deputies, often reminiscent of voices crying in the wilderness. What are the chances for forming an official opposition in the Russian parliament? V. Isakov, well-known political figure in the Russian parliament, answers these and other questions.

[Isakov] Back at the end of December a number of deputies and I declared our rejection of the political recklessness with prices which, for some reason, is described as economic reform. Time has confirmed our misgivings. This happened because there is essentially no serious analysis or serious criticism of the proposed projects in parliament. And most importantly, there is no alternative.

I consider that an opposition should form gradually. In this regard I should say that there is no shortage in the press of sundry statements about groups having become disenchanted, going into opposition, and no longer supporting the president. From my standpoint, this is more of a political game, a desire to occupy a more comfortable place in the upcoming events, and an opportunity to distance oneself from a government which has discredited itself and to attempt once more to survive by dint of political opportunism.

That is not, of course, the kind of opposition meant here. What we should be talking about is an opposition which presents a serious alternative to power: First and foremost on the ideological plane, that is to say the ability to

offer softer ways of making the transition to market relations as an alternative to the unchecked capitalization of the country and the ability to offer an alternative on the professional plane, that is to say the formation of a kind of shadow cabinet which would take account of the realities which have developed in the country over 70 years. And, I would say, an alternative is necessary in terms of the seriousness of the approach to tackling the problems rending society. In short, an opposition is needed which would propose well-considered ways of overcoming the crisis rather than engaging in hysterical soapbox ranting.

There is no barrier to its creation in current legislation. It is theoretically possible right now. The multiparty system has become a real part of our lives in recent years. We have become used to this now. And an opposition will also appear as a reality in the political arena. Why, then, has it not emerged to date? The reason is the political ethos and the stereotypical thinking prevalent here which, generally speaking, leave no place for opposition.

Opposition was not regarded with very much favor under the previous leadership, and is perhaps regarded with even less favor today. After all, even parliament sometimes supports the executive power's longing to remove all criticism and any alternative. Executive power brooks no restrictions or doubts regarding the rightness of its chosen course. And this despite everything, despite the fact that we have repeatedly witnessed the inadequately considered actions of executive power. It is enough just to cite the examples of Chechnya and the amalgamation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Federal Security Agency [FSA].

Something else should be said too. The current leadership was overhasty in destroying the political system. Whatever the charges leveled against the CPSU, its ban was followed by a political organizations' vacuum—after all, what we have operating now are essentially small, uncoordinated groups incapable of becoming a serious political opposition. I do not presume to forecast how much time will be needed for sufficiently influential forces to appear in our political system. I do think that this process would have been far quicker had there been no ban on the CPSU, which, incidentally, would only benefit today's ruling elite. It would at least be a serious partner with whom it would be possible to compete for power and people's minds.

But I am worried lest everything collapse around us yet again. And to prevent this happening, the immediate consolidation of all forces capable of offering more realistic and sensible paths of development is essential.

Parliament To Ratify Treaty With Lithuania

*PM3001090992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Jan 92 First Edition p 2*

["Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the Ratification of the Treaty on the Fundamentals of

Interstate Relations between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Lithuanian Republic," carried in the "Official Section"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To ratify the Treaty on the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations between the RSFSR and the Lithuanian Republic, signed in the city of Moscow 29 July 1991.

2. For the purpose of creating conditions ensuring mutually advantageous and equitable relations between Russia and Lithuania as two sovereign states, to instruct the Russian Federation Government to embark forthwith on direct bilateral talks with the Government of the Lithuanian Republic so as to prepare and sign the agreements envisaged by the treaty of 29 July 1991.

3. To instruct the Russian Government to pay paramount attention to the questions of:

- protecting human rights and freedoms and the rights and freedoms of national minorities living on the territory of Russia and Lithuania;
- determining the status of units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed on the territory of the Lithuanian Republic;
- protecting the rights and vital interests of servicemen on active military service or discharged into the reserve and the members of their families present on the territory of Lithuania;
- specific questions of delimiting and demarcating interstate borders and arrangements relating to them;
- cooperation in the sphere of road, rail, and air communications and the utilization of seaports and pipelines on the sides' territory;
- regulation of legal arrangements governing the property of Russia and Lithuania on the other state's territory, facilities belonging to the former USSR, and citizens' property;
- cooperation in the sphere of the mass media.

4. To proceed on the basis that the Russian Federation intends to extend protection [pokrovitelstvo] to its citizens living on the territory of the Lithuanian Republic. The Russian Federation will likewise encourage protection on the part of the Lithuanian Republic for its citizens living on the territory of the Russian Federation.

5. To propose to the Russian Federation president that talks be held promptly with the Lithuanian side to create a reciprocal protection mechanism, including the immediate opening of a permanent mission in Lithuania, and that the results of these talks be reported to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet within one month.

6. To involve a group of Russian people's deputies in the talks with Lithuania as part of the Russian delegation.

[Signed] R. I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.
The House of the Soviets of Russia,
17 January 1992

Poll Shows Increased Support for Yeltsin

LD3101150392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT
31 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Yeltsin's stocks are going up in the West, by the looks of it. But this is not saving him from the criticism of opponents in Russia—in particular that of Vice President Rutskoy. Comparisons can again be drawn with the initial period of Gorbachev's reign. But judging by public opinion polls, the people's indignation is not aimed as yet against the president of Russia.

According to the results of the poll carried out by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet press center for the study of public opinion [as heard], 43 percent out of 1,200 people polled from various regions of Russia support Yeltsin's policies. About 19 percent of those polled expressed a negative attitude toward the activities of the president. Yeltsin is followed by Khasbulatov, head of the parliament, who is supported by 36 percent of those polled, while 19 percent disapprove of his activities.

According to the poll, Yeltsin's and Khasbulatov's ratings have risen by 17 and 10.5 percent respectively. The popularity of Vice Prime Ministers Gennadiy Burbulis and Yegor Gaydar has declined. Their standing has gone down by 8 and 7.5 percent respectively.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Congress Adopts Independence Law

LD0202055992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1612 GMT 1 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] The first kurultay (congress) of the Tatar people opened in Kazan on February 1, adopted the law on independence of Tatarstan republic. Tatarstan in the adopted law has been defined as an object of international law. The kurultay applied to the United Nations with a request to recognize Tatarstan as its rightful member.

The kurultay elected a milli majlis of 75 persons. Twenty five seats were reserved for Tatars abroad. The greatest representation in majlis is enjoyed by Kazan (15 seats) and Naberezhny Chelny (8 seats). Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Deputy Talgat Abdullin, Yelez deputy general for economics, was elected rais (chairman) of the national congress.

The elections were participated by 877 deputies from Tatarstan, Volga region, Urals Siberia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Moscow and St. Petersburg. The approved statement on the majlis confirms the demands to the Tatarstan government on the establishment of its army and border troops, on transition of law-enforcement organs and enterprises under the Tatarstan jurisdiction, and on nationalization of stock-holding companies.

Amir Makhutov, chairman of committee sovereignty and kurultay delegate, moved to recall delegates of the Supreme Soviet from 'the neighboring state' of the Russian Federation and also 'to return to the republic our share of former Union's gold and diamonds.' Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Deputy Talgat Abdullin moved to review the budget and tax relations with Russia.

Our aim is to set up a fair national state, and rumors on overthrowing of President Mintimer Shaimiyev are false, Fauziya Bairamova, leader of Ittifak Party, said from the rostrum of the all-Tatar congress.

The windows of the Kamal theater, where the kurultay holds its sessions, show the following slogans: RSFSR is Prodigy of Joseph the Terrible, Russian Imperialism Needs Our Oil But Not Us, Tatarstan President Should Not Sign the Unequal Agreement with Russia, Yeltsin's Democracy is a Trap for Non-Russian Peoples, etc.

Adopts Language Law

LD0202182892 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1301 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Excerpt] Kazan, 2 Feb (TASS)—[passage omitted] The National Assembly adopted a Law on the Status of the Tatar Language, declaring it to be the state language of Tatarstan. The Declaration of State Sovereignty adopted by the republic's Supreme Soviet in 1990 named Tatar and Russian as the state languages, but now the Tatar kurultay has stated that "it recognizes Russian, Chuvash, Udmurt, Mari, Mordovian, and the other languages of nations living in the republic as official languages of Tatarstan." The document states that discrimination on language grounds is not to be tolerated on the territory of the republic. A decision was also adopted "On the national flag of the Tatar People," which is significantly different from the state flag of Tatarstan. It can be described as a green panel bearing a half moon and seven-pointed star. Those taking part in the kurultay appealed to be "taken to the bosom" of the Islamic Conference Organization. The appeal also expresses respect for the religions of other nations living in Tatarstan.

In the view of politicians and lawyers, the decisions adopted by the milli majlis have no legal force, for the republic's constitution does not recognize any such body. "The national parliament is based on the principles of

cultural and national autonomy," stated Rafail Khakimov, an adviser to the president and member of the State Council of Tatarstan, in an interview with the local press. All the claims to power by the milli majlis are absolutely groundless, and in the current political and economic situation it will be politically isolated. It is even more naive of it to count on recognition by the world public. On whose behalf will it act? On behalf of a people which never elected it?"

Group Rejects Congress Decisions

OW0202161792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1404 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The first Tatar kurultay (congress of the Tatar people) that passed a law on Saturday [1 February], decreeing the republic of Tatarstan an independent country, cannot style itself the kurultay of the Tatar people and speak on its behalf and on that of the Tatar national movement, said the Tatar Public Center. This influential Tatarstan organization has chapters in 93 countries of the former USSR. The center had refused to participate in the kurultay because "the activities of its organizing committee are at odds with the general line of the center on the construction of a rule-of-law state." Attending the kurultay, set to open on February 1, are delegates from Tatarstan and other CIS republics. Tatarstan delegates only represent a radical wing of the national movement: the party Ittifak, the Islamic democratic society Marjani and the youth movement Azatlyk.

President on Congress Role, Function

OW0302121092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1038 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiyev urged not to overestimate the Congress of the Tatar People's Representatives—kurultay—held on 1 and 2 February. Speaking on Monday [3 February] at the session of the Tatar Supreme Soviet, he stressed that "we are dealing with a new public ORGANIZATION [as received] and not more than that." According to the president, any other understanding of its status is unacceptable and should be regarded from legal positions.

The new structure should be registered with the Russian and Tatar Ministries of Justice, Shaimiyev pointed out. All norms of the acting legislation on public organizations are extended to the new organization, including those regulating legal responsibility. The latter also includes the presidential decree on regulation of activities of public organizations.

The Supreme Soviet should express its attitude toward the attempts to substitute or influence the legally elected parliament, Shaimiyev believes. Among the major results of the kurultay's work are the election of the

milli-majlis and the national parliament. The kurultay also adopted a law on the state independence of Tatarstan and an appeal to the United Nations requesting to include the republic into this international ORGANIZATION [as received] as a full-fledged member of the UNO [United Nations Organization]. The Congress approved a number of other principled decisions and documents.

Tatar Leaders Oppose Democratic Congress

LD0302041892 Moscow TASS in English
1719 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 31 (TASS)—The second meeting of the Congress of Democratic Forces planned to be held in Kazan on February 15-16 meets with strong opposition of Tatarstan's nationalist forces, Vladimir Lysenko, co-chairman of the Russian Republican Party which suggested the forming of the Congress of Democratic Forces, told ITAR-TASS.

Lysenko said he had received a telegram from Tatar leaders who suggested that representatives of the party stay away from the congress. Meanwhile, democratic organisations of Tatarstan believe that the holding of the forum in Kazan will help rally Tatarstan's democratic forces.

The press service of the Russian Democratic Party circulated a telegram which Farid Mukhametshin, chairman of Tatarstan's parliament, sent to Nikolay Travkin, chairman of the Russian Democratic Party. It is said in the telegram that parliament "cannot guarantee conditions" for work of the congress and believes that Tatarstan should not be chosen as the congress' venue. The leader of parliament declared that organisers of the congress would be responsible for possible complication of the political situation of the republic.

The congress of the democratic forces of republics within the Russian Federation was formed in December 1991. It includes leaders of the largest democratic parties and national liberation movements of 20 Russian republics. Lysenko said they uphold the republics' sovereignty and at the same time try to help keep them within the Russian Federation. The democratic congress is a consultative body working out recommendations for democratic movements of republics. Its meetings are planned to be held once every three months alternately in the capitals of all former autonomous republics.

Yeltsin, Sobchak on Food Shortages, Policy

LD3101175892

[Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 2030 GMT on 30 Jan carries the 30-minute "This Week" program in which correspondent Julian Manyon reports on drastic food shortages in Russia.

The program opens with shots from inside empty food shops, people waiting in lines, and goes on to include an interview with Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg, speaking in Russian with superimposed English, on how the government's free market policy is going disastrously wrong.

Sobchak says, "Our aim is to bring about a better standard of living for people, a different system of economic and political living conditions, but that end will be of no use to anyone if people start dying of hunger in the course of the transition."

The program continues with shots of a German operated soup kitchen in St. Petersburg and includes interviews with elderly people waiting in lines, showing archive film from the siege of Leningrad 50 years ago, and then the interior of the historic Kirov factory. The arrival of a delegation of German military officers to organize distribution of German food aid is then shown.

Sobchak continues: "I would prefer the German general to be engaged in organizing food supplies to St. Petersburg than to be planning an attack on the city or planning how to wage war against it." The program continues by showing the German officials meeting with EC representatives and the arrival of European ships in port and unloading European food aid. The reporter describes the plan to use money raised from the sale of aid to help the poorest of St. Petersburg.

Yeltsin's arrival in St. Petersburg is then shown, and his visit to a small shop in the city center where he spoke to the shopkeeper:

Yeltsin, speaking in Russian with English subtitles: "Macaroni, vermicelli, noodles, eggs, it should be 15, at the most 16 rubles."

Shopkeeper: "It's the new sales tax."

Yeltsin: "We all live under the same laws. Why do you have it at 22 rubles?"

Shopkeeper: "We have orders to add a 28-percent sales tax."

Yeltsin: "I don't know."

Yeltsin then goes out to address a crowd outside the shop:

Yeltsin: "Please don't worry about flour and bread, grain for bread, we have a month's supply in reserve—and aim to have a month's supply of flour in the stores for baking. So there is nothing to worry about there." The reporter says there was some hostility toward Yeltsin.

The program cuts back to Sobchak, who criticizes Yeltsin's economic policies:

Sobchak: "The price liberalization policy has done nothing to improve things. All that has happened is that prices have gone up, but there has been no increase in the

amount of goods. As one of my friends said, you cannot make two pigs out of one, however high you raise the price of a single pig."

The program goes on to show Yeltsin arriving at the mayor's office and being besieged by local taxi drivers complaining about the high fares they are forced to charge.

Manyon asks Yeltsin if his attempt to create a market economy is in trouble.

Yeltsin, in Russian with superimposed English, replies: "It will be a very difficult time for the people, but we won't have a second chance. The pit we're in is too deep; it is the one we have been digging for 74 years. Climbing out of it is not at all a simple matter, it is the last chance we've got."

The program again shows empty shops and people buying highly priced bread. Sobchak again speaks on the consequences of the price liberalization policy: "Yeltsin did not realize what the consequences of price liberalization were liable to be, and the main reason I think is the psychology of Soviet man. This psychology means that given the chance, everybody's trying to raise prices as high as possible without stopping to think. They're trying to grab everything for themselves."

The program continues with a report from a large state farm outside St. Petersburg and describes the farm's economic policies, where goods produced are used to buy essentials needed on the farm.

The program also includes interviews with EC representatives on their plan for food distribution and setting of prices. Manyon then describes a controversial Russian plan to turn British beef into Russian sausages and shows Sobchak meeting with German officials from the EC. Sobchak continues: "We have never had to organize ourselves for the reception and distribution of humanitarian aid. We are having to create everything from scratch. We have to overcome a lot of bureaucratic red tape, but I'm constantly working on this problem and doing my best to ensure that as few as possible of these irregularities occur, that we set up an efficient system that will work like clockwork."

Demonstrations outside the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg against shortages and price rises are then shown. Sobchak continues: "What is necessary now is the urgent amendment of the reform policy. Without that, we shall not be able to avert a social explosion, we shall have a situation where the majority of the people will simply be unable to buy anything. If people can no longer live decently, their indignation will bring about a civil war, and people will not start fighting Yeltsin, they will start fighting each other."

The program shows orderly lines for European beef, and the reporter describes the European plan for using funds raised to help the poorest people in St. Petersburg.

Yeltsin's arrival in St. Petersburg is shown, followed by his wreath laying with Sobchak.

Manyon then interviews Yeltsin on what he will ask British Prime Minister Major during his upcoming visit. Yeltsin says: "Britain could definitely do more, not just giving advice, which I am grateful for, but also giving economic help."

The correspondent then asks: "Does your whole presidency actually depend on this question: Could you lose your job because of what is happening in the shops?"

Yeltsin replies: "Anything could happen. You might say: Yeltsin decided to use his authority to make people swallow this bitter pill."

Manyon concludes that Yeltsin is visiting the United Nations as Russia's leader, but the images that follow him are not of a nuclear superpower, but of hunger.

Sobchak: More Aid Needed To Keep Democracy

LD0102172392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT
29 Jan 92

["Novosti" report by Pavel Kasparov]

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak believes that unless the West steps up its aid to Russia in the immediate future, then the hungry people could sweep away the democratic regime in the republic. He indicated that the present situation in Russia is provoking an unprecedented rise in the influence of nationalist patriots, orthodox communists, and the military industrial monster. Sobchak also voiced regret that at the conference held recently in Washington on the issue of Western aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States, no program was actually worked out for providing Russia with aid.

Komi Supports Yeltsin Economic Decree

LD3101231992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1742 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section: "Komi Supreme Soviet chairman supports Yeltsin's decree on measures to stabilize the republican economy"—headline]

[Text] Russian president's decree "On urgent measures of economic stabilization and development of social environment in the Komi SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]", signed on January 24, opens up broad vistas for joint work with leadership of the Russian Federation for the Komi government and gives an impetus to production growth, stated Komi Supreme Soviet Chairman Yuriy Spiridonov at a January 28 meeting with republican mass media journalists. He stressed the importance of the decree provisions, sealing Komi's right to its own property, envisaging long-term economic cooperation between Komi Republic and Russian Federation, mapping out measures to develop basic branches.

According to the decree, in order to support enterprises' and organizations' activity, conducting goods exchange and barter operations to saturate the market with foodstuffs and consumer goods, Komi republican market fund will dispose of 30 percent of the produce put out by enterprises in the Komi territory (in 1991 the figure equalled 15 percent). It is also envisaged that geological prospecting and operation of fuel-energy and other natural raw materials resources deposits in the Komi Republic will be carried out only upon agreement with Komi Council of Ministers on the basis of laws on nature use in the Russian Federation and Komi Republic. According to the decree, the Komi Council of Ministers should organize gold extraction at the deposits that are not to be developed by Rossalmazoloto corporation, within the nearest 5 years with its subsequent contribution as a mortgage capital to the Russian Federation Bank of Foreign Trade and its branch in the Komi Republic.

In 1992, 70 percent of currency earnings from export produce of enterprises located in the Komi territory, subject to the transfer to republican currency reserve of the Russian Federation, will be left at the disposal of the Komi Republic. Komi Council of Ministers also got the right to independently settle barter issues, to bring home to enterprises quotas on export of definite kinds of goods within the limits of regional Komi quota. Licenses for goods export within the regional Komi quota are issued by a decision of Komi Council of Ministers with subsequent drawing up of documents through an agent of external economic relations committee at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in the Komi Republic.

Chairman Sees Role for Moscow Soviet

MK3101144992 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
31 Jan 92 p 4

[Yelena Tarasova interview with Moscow City Soviet Chairman Nikolay Gonchar: "I Refrain From Making Forecasts"]

[Text] [Tarasova] At a session of the Mossovet [Moscow City Soviet] before elections to the Small Council, one of the deputies proposed that the Mossovet stop arguing with Gavriil Popov and the city government, that it no longer suffer their accusations that this city representative organ is hindering the course of reform, and that...the Mossovet disband. Well then....

What, in your view, would change in Moscow if the session were to adopt such a resolution?

[Gonchar] What would happen would be that there would no longer be opposition to the government. All powers must have an opposition. Some today are convinced that the Mossovet is simply an empty talk-shop, that it makes few decisions. But a situation has developed where it is precisely the Mossovet that restrains the bureaucrats. By the way, take a close look at the specific nature of our Russian bureaucrat. He has always worked under controls and feared this control. There is hardly

any of that anymore. This is a problem, and the leaders of executive power are well aware of this. So it appears on the surface that the deputies greet every decree of the government and every order of the mayor with a declaration or an inquiry. The deputies represent the people of Moscow, and where else is the government going to hear the opinions of city residents? One way or another, whether the government wants to admit it, it has nevertheless been forced to change its course. An example of this was a speech given at a session by government Prime Minister Luzhkov and his declaration that it is extremely important to reach coordinated decisions. This means that the oversight functions of the Mossovet, if perhaps not its creative functions, are not being carried out badly at all. A new organ of the Mossovet has now been created—the Small Council, which will meet no less than once a month and will examine many operational issues that cannot be put off until the next regular session.

[Tarasova] The effectiveness of the former staff of the Small Council, even in the opinion of many deputies who belonged to it, left much to be desired. Although it is strange: Practically every member of the дума decided to join it voluntarily, but within three months a quarter of the deputies had left the дума. It has now been decided that the Small Council will be elected—and there are 237 candidates, once again many more than the necessary 95 people. Among them are many who left the дума of the own free will. Why?

[Gonchar] The reason is this, no doubt. First of all, the former дума was formed on the basis of a situation created by the Mossovet itself, and in time many came to understand that its work was hindered by the same thing that hindered the work of the entire Mossovet—the absence of a quorum even blocked deputies from asking questions. The Small Council is now elected on the basis of an RSFSR law, and it is in the interest of the deputies themselves to send to it those who in their view are the most deserving. There is a reason why it was decided that candidates would be nominated based on their ratings. There is cause for hoping that, having gone through this unique competition, deputies will approach their duties more responsibly and in so doing will boost the authority of the Mossovet.

[Tarasova] But isn't the reason so many wish to work on a full-time basis in the Small Council is that many deputies will earn significantly more money than they do in their current jobs as teachers, doctors, and engineers?

[Gonchar] This no doubt has some effect: The salary of a deputy freed from his or her primary job is now equal to seven salaries. Multiply 342 by 7—not a bad sum. But I would like to think the majority of those elected are hoping to correct many of the imperfections in the work of the Small Council.

[Tarasova] Aren't you afraid that things might turn out like the well-known fable: "And you, friends, wouldn't you like a seat...."?

[Gonchar] I think it is premature to assess the new composition of the Small Council, but I will say one thing: Accusations by several deputies that the council is getting "not the most talented, but the most radical" and that therefore the Small Council faces the same fate as the USSR Supreme Soviet, these accusations in my view are completely unfounded. Well-known "radicals" have not entered the Small Council. Those who have joined have not attempted to "privatize" the microphone at sessions, but rather have at times done the thankless preparatory work—preparing draft decrees, coordinating them, involving themselves in real administrative situations....

[Tarasova] Nikolay Nikolayevich, in the joint resolution of the president of the Russian Federation and the chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet, it was recommended that by 31 January the Mossovet restructure representative organs to coincide with the division of Moscow into municipal districts. Does this mean the abolition of the 33 rayon soviets?

[Gonchar] No, it doesn't. This is only a recommendation. The Mossovet has the right to decide for itself what structure its organs will have. I believe all disagreements will be settled when a law is adopted on the status of Moscow, the capital of Russia.

Yakut Deputies Oppose Secession Decisions
OW0202161692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1404 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] A group of Yakutian people's deputies said they were opposed to the decisions of the republican parliament and government demanding Yakutia's secession from Russia. According to the deputies, this will take place in case Yakutia concludes a state treaty with Russia that will divide the powers between the federal authorities and the republican, territorial etc. authorities that are part of the federation. The deputies believe that Yakut President Mikhail Nikolayev's decree concerning the formation of the republican budget for 1992 on the basis of a one-channel tax system spells confrontation in the two republics' financial relations. The new Yakutian constitution, which is scheduled for consideration at the current parliament session, is at variance both with the current Russian Constitution and with its project being in the works, says the deputies. [sentence as received] It will inevitably be thrown out by the Russian Federation's Constitution Court, which will speed up Yakutia's secession from Russia.

International Affairs**Kravchuk Interviewed on CIS Role, Russia**

*LD3101173192 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 30 Jan 92*

[Interview with Leonid Kravchuk, Ukrainian president, by correspondent Nik Gowing in Kiev; date not given; Kravchuk in Russian with English subtitles; from the "Channel 4 News" program—recorded] •

[Text] [Gowing] Was the Ukraine still threatening to leave the Commonwealth of former Soviet states?

[Kravchuk] Ukraine is not planning to ruin the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. That's what the media say. They would like to create the impression that Ukraine is splitting the Union. But Ukraine believes that the Commonwealth has a great potential. There are many joint problems between the member states, but we will solve them within the framework of the Commonwealth, on the basis of agreements and laws.

[Gowing] How much friction is there now between Ukraine and Russia, between you and President Yeltsin?

[Kravchuk] I think that relationship is not that complicated. The problems are somewhat acute but they are solvable. We would solve everything in a peaceful way: the border line, disarmament, the scrapping of nuclear weapons—both tactical and strategic. In fact all problems including economic, political, and military. We would solve all these issues on an agreed legal basis.

[Gowing] What is your view now of the future of the Black Sea Fleet? There are Russian sources who are suggesting that the Ukraine has laid plans to seize a large part of the fleet for its own.

[Kravchuk] We are not using strength or adventurism to solve the Black Sea issue. It will be solved only on the basis of accords and agreements. We want the Black Sea turned into a nuclear-free zone. By 1 July 1992 there won't be any nuclear weapon carriers in the Black Sea. It will be a closed reservoir, an area of recreation for millions of people. It is a health resort and we don't want any nuclear weapons there. The Ukraine does not need a large navy. We need a fleet that will guarantee the defense of our border which is about 1,200 km. We will solve everything in agreement with Russia. We do not have any claims against them and we do not want Russia to make any claims against us.

[Gowing] What if the Russian president was to decide to try to take control of the Black Sea Fleet, and order it to sail from your Ukrainian ports to Russian ports?

[Kravchuk] Boris Yeltsin has just said that Russia does not have claims of the Black Sea, and Russian ports including Novorossiysk would not accept the ships from the Black Sea. Previously he had made claims on the ships. But he has now changed his position, and I like

that new position. I think that events will force everybody to take the right stand because it is very hard to stop progress. People spoke out for independence. They want to build their own national states and everybody will be building according to national aspirations.

[Gowing] Thank you.

Kravchuk Sends Telegrams on Fleet Commander

*LD3101160292 Kiev Radio Kiev Network
in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Yesterday evening the editorial office received the following information from the press center of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine:

The Ukrainian public is concerned over the position of the command of the Black Sea Fleet and Commander Admiral Kasatonov personally. Despite numerous appeals to him from the leadership of Ukraine that he abstain from unbalanced speeches and actions, and take into account the reality that Ukraine has its own, precisely formulated military policy, based on the legislative acts adopted by the Supreme Soviet and on the Alma-Ata, Minsk, and Moscow agreements between the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, he continues to behave impertinently and in an inadmissible way.

In this connection Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, president of the Ukraine, has sent a telegram to Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and marshal of the Air Force, and to Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and admiral of the fleet. I have to inform you, says the telegram, that the commander of the Black Sea Fleet treated in a rude and disrespectful way the group of the Ukrainian people's deputies and senior officials from the the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, which had been officially delegated by the the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium for explaining the laws adopted by the parliament, and measures enacted by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, on building the armed forces and on the social protection of servicemen.

Ignoring the fact that the group waited for over two hours outside the gates of the Fleet Headquarters on 29 January of this year, Admiral Kasatonov not only refused to receive them himself, but banned a meeting with his deputies and did not allow them to visit the ships, units, or subunits. He persecutes the unit commanders and officers who have taken the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine, and stands in the way of servicemen's expressing their free will in wishing to take the oath. Admiral Kasatonov makes tactless statements addressed at the supreme bodies of power and administration of the Ukraine, and gives a deliberately twisted interpretation of the documents signed in Alma-Ata, Minsk, and Moscow, which does not correspond to his post. The president demands that the question of Kasatonov's dismissal from his post as commander of the

Fleet be resolved and that actions which exacerbate the situation in the Crimea and among the personnel of the Fleet be stopped.

Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk has informed Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in a telegram about the actions of Admiral Kasatonov, which clearly show his neglect for constitutional norms and for the laws of Ukraine. He asks that support be given to the question that has been raised on the inexpediency of Admiral Kasatonov's further holding the post of commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

The president of the Ukraine also sent a telegram to Admiral Kasatonov, in which he stresses that as commander of the Fleet which is deployed on the territory of independent Ukraine his actions are inadmissible, and that the admiral's behavior does not correspond to his post.

Kravchuk Stresses Claim to Black Sea Fleet

LD3001121792 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
0100 30 Jan 92

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, after having visited the Black Sea Fleet, stated that Russia will ensure all supplies to the fleet. He believed that the ships of the fleet should be subordinated to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk stressed once again that Ukraine has a claim for a larger part of the Black Sea Fleet. Ukraine cannot [word indistinct] from an opportunity of being a naval power and having its own navy. At the same time, Leonid Kravchuk pointed out that Ukraine will strictly adhere to all accords on the Black Sea Fleet which were reached between Ukraine and Russia in Moscow on 15 January.

Fokin Rejects Russian Financial Decision

LD3101213392 Moscow TASS in English
2012 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 31 TASS—Ukraine opposed on Friday [31 January] the Russian declaration to inherit financial and banking relations of the former USSR with the world, calling it dictate of another state.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin told reporters today that he sent an appeal to the world business community stating that Ukraine, which stands for equality, cannot accept the dictate of another state, no matter how mighty its potential may be. Ukraine told the world financial circles it wants to be liable for paying 16.37 per cent of the total Soviet hard currency foreign debt and asked to grant its national and export-import banks a possibility to participate in all financial operations in the world market, according to the prime minister.

"We are not going to interfere into Russian internal affairs, but we cannot leave without any reaction the move which directly concerns Ukrainian interests", Fokin said.

Fokin Appeals For USSR Debt Adjustment

LD0202043592 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service
in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Address by Prime Minister Vitold Fokin "to world financial circles"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ukraine signed on 4 December 1991 the treaty on the legal succession of the external state debt of [word indistinct] USSR with other states of the former Union. By this Ukraine took upon itself an unconditional obligation to repay a part of the external debt of the USSR through the Bank for External Economic Activity, which, according to the treaty, was made an authorized agent for servicing the debt.

Wishing to adhere steadily to the letter and the spirit of the treaty, Ukraine decided to join the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development. Together with experts of those outstanding international organizations, the Government of Ukraine is making a balance of payment, the first in the history of our state, and defining the limit of external debts for confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. In the conditions of an extremely severe economic crisis and hyperinflation and [word indistinct] of wide layers of population, the government is trying to find necessary hard currency costs for timely repayment of a part of the debt. The system of stimulating export is being urgently created and the Export-Import Bank of Ukraine has been set up. The system of the national customs control is being [word indistinct].

But the actions of other parties of the treaty of 4 December of last year give cause to concern. Without participation of an authorized representative of the Government of Ukraine, representatives of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and other countries, successors to the USSR, adopted the rules [statut] of the interstate council which, according to the treaty, has the power to make decisions on servicing the debt. The actions of the interstate council in effect run counter to the treaty. The gold and hard currency assets, both abroad and internally, real estate and property outside the borders of the USSR are being unilaterally appropriated, and information about this is not available to other successor states.

Having, in accordance with the arbitrarily adopted rules, 61.1 percent of the debts, the Russian Federation has a real possibility by its action to (?legalize) the decisions of the interstate council. At the end of last year the interstate council decided to suspend the current operations of external organizations of the USSR which did a lot of harm to the economic interests of Ukraine.

Supporting equality in solving these questions, Ukraine cannot agree with the diktat of (?any) state, however big

its potential may be. Therefore Ukraine is addressing a request to world financial circles:

1. To apportion from the total sum of the debts of the former USSR in freely convertible currency 16.37 percent for independent servicing by Ukraine which corresponds to the clauses of the treaty of 4 December 1991, (?Article 3);

2. To give a direct possibility to the National Bank of Ukraine and the Export-Import Bank of Ukraine to take part in all the types of financial operations on the world market for timely fulfilment of debt obligations and provision of growth of the market economy of Ukraine;

3. To recognize and to assist realization of the right of property of Ukraine for 16.37 percent of all [word indistinct] assets of the former USSR both on its territory and abroad which will be the necessary guarantee of Ukraine's fulfilment of its international financial obligations. (?As) a temporary protection, to suspend the right of property of Russia for the property of the former USSR abroad until its actual division between the successor states. [Word indistinct] of realization of these proposals, the Government of Ukraine suggests convening an international conference in Kiev on 17-19 February of this year, to which authorized representatives from the creditors, the IMF and world banks should be invited.

Kravchuk Meets With European Bank Chief

LD0102225692 Moscow TASS in English
2113 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alexey Trotsenko]

[Text] Kiev January 29 TASS—European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Chief Jacques Attali, currently on a working visit to Kiev, told a UKRINFORM correspondent of his organisation's intention to assist Ukraine.

Attali met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk earlier on Wednesday [29 January] and was informed of the latest developments in Ukrainian political and economic life.

Attali described his visit as very fruitful and constructive. We considered projects pertaining to Ukrainian national economy, he said.

Defense Minister Meets Polish Delegation

LD0102111592 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1920 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By Ukrinform correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Jan (TASS)—Colonel General Konstantin Morozov, Ukraine's Minister of Defense, spoke today about the Ukraine's aspiration to join NATO's Political Council during a conversation with members of a Polish delegation headed by Jerzy Makarczyk, first

deputy minister of foreign affairs and state secretary of the Republic of Poland. In the minister's view this does not contradict the status of a neutral state, which the Ukraine wishes to become. In the near future, he said, the Ukrainian parliament should be adopting a statute on reducing conventional weapons in Central Europe. The minister once again issued assurances that the Ukraine's armed forces will be of a defensive nature.

The minister reported to the members of the Polish delegation that by the second half of 1995 the numbers of the Ukraine's armed forces will comprise 230-240,000 persons. According to information received from a reliable source, the minister also gave a figure for servicemen of the former Soviet Army which are today located on the republic's territory—about half a million. Of them, 72 percent have sworn allegiance to the Ukraine, he noted.

The Polish side informed the Ukrainian defense minister that Poland is also striving to reduce its armed forces to the level of 200,000 soldiers. This is two times less [as received] than for the period when Poland was a member of the Warsaw Pact and its army comprised 415,000 servicemen.

The Polish delegation is in Kiev on an official visit.

Rukh Urges UN To Delay Russian Membership

OW3001002092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1655 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian public and political association Rukh has urged the UN Security Council to delay for 6 months Russia's confirmation as its permanent member. According to the Rukh Secretariat, the association's statement points out that there are political groups in the former USSR seeking to restore the empire on the basis of the largest ex-Soviet republic, the Russian Federation.

National Affairs

Minister Says Armed Forces Formed Legally

LD0102134992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Ukraine's armed forces are being formed on a legal basis and in accordance with Commonwealth of Independent States documents, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov stressed in a message to Black Sea Fleet sailors. He accused some forces of attempts to whip up the situation around the fleet, leading to confrontation, the INTERFAX News Agency reports.

Officers and warrant officers who have already sworn an oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine or intend to do so are being transferred to the reserves or are persecuted by other methods, Morozov claims.

Addressing those who have sworn an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, the minister assured that they are under the protection of Ukraine's Constitution.

Supreme Soviet Approves Military Legislation

*LD0302100792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2125 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[From the "Military News" Section]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on January 31 approved, in the first reading, laws on military service in the Ukrainian Armed Forces and on provision of pensions to Ukrainian servicemen. Observers note that the laws have been thoroughly worked out and will promote strengthening the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Not a single article, with a few exceptions, has caused disagreements in the course of the discussion at the Supreme Soviet. The only thing that has been postponed pending a separate discussion was the proposed introduction of Ukrainian military ranks instead of those commonly accepted. The laws envisage three levels of military service: that of enlisted men called up to active military service, alternative and contract ones.

Briefing Held on Crimea, Defense, Media Issues

*LD0102093192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1630 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[Text] Attention was drawn to the situation regarding the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session which has opened. Here's what our correspondent in Kiev, Vladimir Sokolov, reported on the news conference given by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Plyushch:

[Sokolov] With regard to the question of who owns the Crimea—a matter which was raised in Russia's parliament—he reported that the official appeal which it planned to make to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium has not arrived, and therefore there is so far no official reply. But, added Ivan Plyushch, the reply will be unambiguous: We will never embark on revising documents adopted earlier. Ivan Plyushch also reported that in his decree the Ukrainian president appointed new commanders in all military districts—the Kiev, Odessa, and Transcarpathia districts. As is known, the previous commanders, having issued orders for troops to swear allegiance to the people of Ukraine, themselves refrained from doing that. But that is not the reason, he explained. The reason is that people who have been appointed by the president of another state cannot be in command of the armed forces of independent Ukraine.

On the subject of relations with Russia, and in particular the question of the Crimea, Leonid Kravchuk noted that in that case the most acceptable position is that of President Yeltsin, who is altogether against the raising of this question.

The president spoke very sharply on the position in the central news media that are at times deliberately distorting the situation with the Ukraine on a number of questions, although the republic is strictly adhering to all agreements concluded with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

President Names Military District Leaders

*LD0102162792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Jan 92*

[Text] By decree of the Ukrainian president, the commanders in chief of the Kiev, Carpathian, and Odessa Military Districts have been released from their duties. Lieutenant Generals Boriskin, Radetskiy, and Stepanov have been appointed instead, respectively. All the new commanders were among the first servicemen to swear allegiance to the Ukraine.

Radetskiy on Tank Army Transfer

*LD0202092592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2053 GMT 29 Jan 92*

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Lieutenant General Vitaliy Radetskiy [is] appointed new commander of the Odessa Military District. Prior to this appointment, Radetskiy was commander of the 6th Tank Army. According to well informed sources, during the official appointment ceremony on January 28, Radetskiy told his staff officers that the 6th Guards Tank Army based in Dnepropetrovsk and other regions of the Ukraine will be transferred from the Kiev Military District to the Odessa Military District.

Border Defense Committee Chairman Appointed

*AU2801121492 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian No. 1, Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] In accordance with the Ukrainian presidential decree, Lieutenant General Valeriy Oleksandrovych Hubenko, commander of border troops, has been appointed chairman of the State Committee for the Defense of the Ukrainian State Borders. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers appointed A.P. Sorokin as Ukrainian deputy minister of labor.

Further Appointments

*AU0302100492 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian No. 3 (49), Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers has appointed deputy chairmen of the State Committee for the Defense of Ukrainian State Borders:

Major General V.P. Boruchenko—first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Defense of Ukrainian State Borders—commander of Ukrainian Border Troops—chief of staff of Ukrainian Border Troops;

Major General Yu.V. Babanskyy—deputy chairman;

Major General O.S. Artyomov—deputy chairman of the Committee—chief of Administration for Combat Training and Military Education;

Colonel V.I. Bannykh—deputy chairman of the Committee—chief of operational-investigation administration;

Captain First Rank B.P. Ryabov—deputy chairman of the Committee—chief of the marine administration;

Colonel V.L. Shugaliy—deputy chairman of the Committee—chief of the administration for personnel.

Major General A.P. Borysov and Colonels V.M. Bondar and L.V. Melnikov have been approved as members of the board of this Committee.

Kiev Military on Fuel, Ammunition Shortages

LD0302102292 Moscow *POSTFACTUM* in English
2125 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] On January 31, the military council of the Kiev Military District held a meeting to discuss the material and technical support issues. The meeting was chaired by Lieutenant General Valentin Boriskin appointed as commander of the military district by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

PF [POSTFACTUM] learned that it had been reported at the meeting that, following a rupture of ties with Moscow, the military district is experiencing an acute shortage of motor vehicle and aircraft fuel, automobiles and ammunition. It was noted at the meeting that there may soon be no ammunition even for the initial training of draftees. It was reported at the meeting that, due to insufficiently worked-out legal issues, the number of deserters had increased. Thus, 25 Ukrainian draftees have deserted simultaneously from a training division stationed in the town of Desna, alone. In addition, the command of the military district has yet to settle the destiny of 9,000 enlisted men and 1,000 officers refusing to take an oath of allegiance to the Ukraine. At the same time, some 20,000 officers and non-commissioned officers, instead, wish to serve in the Ukraine rather than in other regions of the former USSR. No representative from the Ukrainian defense ministry attended the meeting of the military council of the Kiev Military District.

Officers' Union Meets, Discusses Security

LD0102154892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
2200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Officers' Union of Ukraine has held its sitting in Kiev. Apart from leaders of the officers organizations functioning on the territory of the republic, taking part in the sitting were the citizens of Ukraine who now serve beyond these borders.

Already 350,000 servicemen have taken an oath of allegiance to Ukraine. This figure includes the border guard and national guard.

Head of the standing commission of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine on questions of defense and state security, Vasil Durdinets, spoke at the sitting. He said that the leadership of Ukraine does not violate any of the obligations Ukraine assumed upon itself as member of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We are following the road of building our own armed forces on a legal basis and on the basis of [words indistinct] agreements which were adopted in Alma-Ata, Minsk, and Moscow, said Vasil Durdinets. [passage omitted]

In the near future a package of legal acts will be adopted in Ukraine including such laws as the law on general military duty and military service, the law on pensions for military servicemen and the workers of the Ministry of the Interior. The package of legal acts comprises about 20 draft laws and resolutions of the Supreme Soviet.

National Guard Deserters To Be Sent Back

LD0302112192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
0100 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] All Ukrainian soldiers who deserted from the armies stationed in various republics of the Commonwealth in an attempt to join the National Guard of Ukraine will be sent back. This has been stated by the Commander of the National Guard, Major General Kukharets. It was pointed out that the transfer of the servicemen to Ukraine will become possible only after the signing of corresponding agreements with the member states of the Commonwealth.

Defense Ministry Commercial Center Established

LD0102215892 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0742 GMT 29 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 29 Jan—The sale of output from the military-industrial complex, of various hardware, property, consumer, and industrial goods—this is the range of issues which the commercial center set up in attachment to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry will deal with.

The profit received from the center's activities will be directed toward improving the social and living conditions of servicemen serving in Ukraine, and the creation of housing construction capacities, and of various enterprises, including joint enterprises where reserve officers and ensigns could work.

In the long-term the creation of a military hardware exchange, a special bank, and joint stock companies attached to the commercial center is envisaged.

Kravchuk Comments on Ethnic German Resettlement

LD0102085592 Berlin ADN in German
0131 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Hamburg (ADN)—The Ukraine wants to resettle millions of German Russians on its territory. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk announced in an interview with DER SPIEGEL that his country will offer "the best land" in the south and in the Crimea for this. Kravchuk has just signed a relevant decree on the founding of the Ukrainian-German Foundation in Kiev.

Before World War II, around 400,000 ethnic Germans lived in the Ukraine until Stalin had them deported in 1941, along with the Volga Germans. Kravchuk now wants to ensure that the Germans "return to those territories in which they once lived." There was room for as many "as we are able to admit under normal living conditions." Kravchuk said he did want to restrict the resettlement project with stipulations on quantity.

Ministry Says Economy in 'Critical Position'

OW0302144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1330 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Ministry for Statistics reported on Monday [3 February] that the Ukrainian economy was still in a critical position.

According to the Ministry for Statistics, last year's gross national product was 10 percent, the national income—11 percent and labour productivity—10 percent down from the 1990 level.

The budget deficit has reached 39.5 billion roubles. Taking into account the debt to the banks, it amounts to 48.5 billion roubles.

The report says that in comparable prices, in 1991 the overall volume of industrial production went down by 4.5 percent against the year 1990.

The production of 118 industrial goods has been reduced.

In the Ministry for Statistics' estimate, all this is due to the broken links between enterprises and regions. The inter-republican supplies agreements are not fulfilled.

The situation in agriculture is also very serious.

Presidential Decree Raises Minimum Wage

AU0302120292 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian No. 3 (49) Jan 92 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on Raising Minimum Wages," No. 34, issued in Kiev in January]

[Text] In order to raise social guarantees for the population and in accordance with the Ukrainian Council of Ministers resolution, issued on 4 January 1992, "On

Social Protection of the Population and of the Domestic Market of the Ukraine," I resolve as follows:

1. To establish the minimum wage of 400 rubles per month.

The minimum wages does not include additional payments, promotion payments, money awards, and other incentive payments.

The established minimum wage is to be introduced for workers at all enterprises, institutions, and organizations regardless of their forms of ownership, types of activity, or industry.

2. Proceeding from the minimum wage established by this decree, enterprises and organizations that have their own balance sheets must revise and increase tariffs and salaries taking into account available financial possibilities;

The ministries and departments of the Ukraine, the Councils of Ministers of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and the executive committees of local councils of people's deputies must, retroactive to 1 December 1991, revise tariffs and salaries of employees of budget-financed institutions and organizations.

3. To establish that social payments (to families with children, allowances paid to the unemployed, temporarily disabled, and so on), scholarships to students of institutions of higher learning, postgraduates, candidates for doctoral degree, and students of secondary special and professional educational institutions be set, retroactive to 1 December 1991, as percentage of the minimum wages specified by the present decree.

4. State pensions for December 1991 must be doubled.

5. To consider as no longer valid Articles 1 and 2 and Paragraph 3 of Article 3 of the Ukrainian Presidential Decree issued on 27 December 1991 "On Social Protection of the Population in the Conditions of Price Liberalization."

L. Kravchuk, president of the Ukraine

State Regulation of Pricing Introduced

OW0202212592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1746 GMT 2 Feb 92

[From the 3 February "Business Report" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last week Ukraine, in accordance with a decree from: republic President Kravchuk, introduced state regulation of the prices of goods and fees for production services. This regulation will be maintained until the republic completes its anti-monopoly legislation.

The regulations place maximum limits on prices for goods and services, expressed as percentages by which these prices may be increased over their previous, state-controlled prices. In the chemical and petrochemical,

construction, medical, mining, and cellophane industries, the established limit for price increases is 30%; in printing and communication - 40%; in machine-building and metallurgy - 25%; and in transport - 35%.

Measures Taken To Back New Currency

LD0202232692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1200 GMT 31 Feb 92

[Text] Ukraine is taking measures to back its future money—the hryvnya—with gold and precious stones. This has been reported by a representative of the National Bank in Kiev. Ukraine intends to introduce its own money in the nearest future in order to protect the home market. As for Ukrainian gold, deposits have recently been found in the west of the republic. And a new sensation—there are reports on a diamond field being found in the Donetsk region in the south of the republic.

Lvov's Chornovil on Kravchuk's 'Power' Party

MK3101143392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 31 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with V.M. Chornovil, chairman of Lvov City Soviet, by Vitaliy Portnikov; place and date not given: "Vyacheslav Chornovil Heads Opposition. 'Kravchuk Has Taken Our Slogans. Well, Should He Be Elected Rukh Chairman?'"]

[Text] [Portnikov] Vyacheslav Maksimovich, people are increasingly talking about you as a potential candidate for the post of Rukh chairman and as a strong opposition leader. Does the opposition really need that kind of leader, and what should it be like today?

[Chornovil] We need an opposition; we must not live one day at a time. We are living today on the basis that Kravchuk defends the state's interests to a certain extent. That's fine, we back him in that. But when it comes to the economy, there is total disruption. We lag considerably behind Russia, the government is worthless, and the first presidential decrees have been antimarket. So, we need our own platform and we must not tailor ourselves to suit Kravchuk or anyone else. If Kravchuk acts in a coordinated fashion, we will support him, if he does not, we won't. We still think of ourselves as being in opposition, although our program has ostensibly been accepted by the president. We are, after all, aware what kind of Supreme Soviet we have and what laws, particularly economic laws, have been adopted. We know what kind of power we have at local level—turncoat Communists virtually everywhere. We have still not obtained everything that Rukh planned, we are still only at the very beginning of forming a state...

[Portnikov] For some reason some confusion among the Democrats has been observed here...

[Chornovil] Probably due to the paradoxical situation whereby more than 90 percent voted in favor of independence, yet democratic candidates nonetheless only received a few votes in the presidential election. Our slogans were totally taken over by our opponent. What is to be done about him? Perhaps he should indeed be elected Rukh chairman as people joked at our Great Rada?

[Portnikov] Do you not think that a "party of power" is now forming around the president, comprising his comrades in arms and some Democrats?

[Chornovil] Yes, something of the sort can be seen. See how warmly Dmitro Pavlychko (one of the leaders of Rukh and the Ukrainian Democratic Party, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs commission), defends Leonid Makarovich. I think that he is already part of this "party of power."

[Portnikov] The Moscow press frequently claims that President Kravchuk is under pressure from national forces.

[Chornovil] No. Kravchuk simply knows how he can win now. He knows that the partocratic structures which gave him very active support in the election will do nothing because they are afraid. There are plenty of State Committee for the State of Emergency people about—he is troubling no one, after all. So, on the one hand, he relies on them and, on the other, he can only go to people with Rukh's slogans. He has partocratic cadres and democratic slogans. To a certain extent anyway. Why are the economic transformations going so slowly there? Merely because he is afraid of affecting his own people. As for the state, that way he can form a sovereign partocratic state. Look, with the same government even. They talk and talk, while he says: Seventy percent must be changed. Not even 70 percent: [Ukrainian Prime Minister] Fokin must be expelled! And a new government formed with totally different people.

[Portnikov] What is your opinion of relations between Russian and Ukrainian Democrats today?

[Chornovil] When I listened to one of Anatoliy Sobchak's recent speeches I was very very sad. Russian democracy will probably never stand on its own feet until it escapes from chauvinism. That's terrible! The Communist Party majority and the Democrats joined forces there at once when it was a question of Ukrainian independence. That is precisely where we will support Kravchuk. This is Russian democracy's incurable ailment. It has frequently stumbled over the national element and the empire syndrome—it is very hard for it to give up the idea of its great-power status. That is the tragedy of Russian democracy.

[Portnikov] But you did not answer my first question. Will you stand as Rukh chairman?

[Chornovil] It is still too early to talk about that. I need to weigh up all the pros and cons. If Rukh survives as a

mass sociopolitical organization, for me the move from the post of Lvov Soviet chairman to Rukh would not mean a loss of position. The whole Ukraine is here. Especially since the electoral campaign gave me a great deal, I already have a selection of cadres in my head... I would cope with that. But if my candidacy brought about a split, I would not agree to stand. That is why I am now studying the alignment of forces. Something that I would require is that there be no members of any party in the leadership of any Rukh subunits whatsoever. I saw the fatal effects of this at local level, particularly at the hands of the party that I effectively created—the Republic Party. A real, selfish free-for-all. If we avoid that and the leadership is departyized, it will not be that important for me whether I become Rukh chairman or not. I will always find something to do for the Ukraine.

Leaders 'Fanning Psychosis'

OW3101190092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1548 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, a leader of the Ukrainian popular movement Rukh and head of the regional council of Lvov, maintains that the Ukrainian and Russian presidents are deliberately fanning psychosis around the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. Mr. Chornovil, who lost the Ukrainian presidency to Leonid Kravchuk, believes the two presidents do it "to distract public attention from the actual needs of the people."

He described Boris Yeltsin's recent visit to a number of Black Sea [word indistinct] as a "tactless and undiplomatic step undermining Ukraine's interests" and a "purely propagandistic trip."

Crimea Expresses 'Great Anxiety' Over Tension

LD3101201192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] The Presidium of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR] Supreme Soviet has issued a statement that it regards the growing tension in relations between Russia and Ukraine with great anxiety. The more so as arising disagreements are more and more often connected with the problem of the Crimea and the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. The statement says that one cannot agree with the fact that currently attempts are being made again to resolve the fate of the Crimea without its participation—the historical experience which gave rise to the problem of 1954 in the past is not being taken into consideration.

The future of the Crimea concerns its inhabitants first of all and it is they who should decide their fate, among other things, if it is caused by necessity in an all-Crimean referendum. The Presidium of the Crimean ASSR Supreme Soviet proposes to hold a summit meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian leaders with the participation of representatives from the Crimea in the nearest future.

At this meeting, many questions about the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet might be resolved.

Crimea Petitions For Fleet Commander's Removal

LD0302003792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT
2 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The union of officers of the Crimea today decided to petition the Governments of Ukraine and Russia for the removal of Admiral Kasatanov from the post of commander of the Black Sea Fleet. A request was sent to Kiev to declare Admiral Kasatanov persona non grata on the territory of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the Crimean parliament, anxious about the increased tension between Kiev and Moscow, has come out with an initiative for a Russian-Ukrainian summit meeting.

Sevastopol Appeals to Kravchuk, Yeltsin

LD3001000292 Kiev Radio Kiev Network
in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] An appeal by the Sevastopol town soviet to deputies of Supreme Soviets of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, to the presidents of the two states, Kravchuk and Yeltsin, was adopted at a session of the town soviet:

Addressing people's deputies and the presidents of the two states, the inhabitants of Sevastopol call for urgent measures to be taken so as not to permit economic, political, or national confrontation. All of us, says the appeal, are being made to feel wary over speculations about Sevastopol, the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea as a whole. It is essential to resolve all problems at the negotiating table.

The people of Sevastopol express the hope that politicians will display wisdom, consideration and mutual understanding and will not permit a destabilization of the situation in this region.

Society Leader on Ukrainian Diaspora, Aid

AU3001093892 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian No. 9, 22 Jan 92 p 8

[Interview with Ivan Drach, chairman of the Ukrayina Society, by special correspondent Volodymyr Teteruk: "Let Us Gather the Holy Trinity"]

[Text] On 22 and 23 January, a congress of Ukrainians residing in sovereign countries of the former USSR will be held. This interview with Ivan Drach, people's deputy and chairman of the Ukrayina Society, deals with tasks and goals of the congress.

[Drach] The main task of the congress is to consolidate Ukrainians worldwide. This is essential today when the

revival of our statehood is beginning. This revival requires the participation of all our compatriots. The Ukraine, in turn, must become a unifying force for the western and eastern diasporas.

[Teteruk] How do you believe the eastern diaspora may provide assistance to our state?

[Drach] This assistance may be both economic and political. For example, there are quite a number of Ukrainians among the deputies of the Kazakhstan parliament. If a certain group is created there that would defend not only the interests of the millions of Kazakhstan Ukrainians, but also of the Ukraine proper, we can count upon advantageous agreements and ties between our states.

Incidentally, there are many Ukrainians in Baykonur. If we develop relations concerning space flights, we can also count upon participation in the development of this important branch of science and technology.

[Teteruk] Among our compatriots in the diaspora, there are many cadre officers who would like to return to the Ukraine and take part in the development of its Army.

[Drach] This is an extremely difficult problem. About 342,000 officers of Ukrainian nationality serve in republics of the former empire. The congress will undoubtedly raise this question before the state.

[Teteruk] Will it deal with the repatriation of our compatriots to their motherland?

[Drach] I think that it is necessary to create conditions for the return of all those who wish this.

It is extremely difficult, however, to resolve these complicated questions efficiently. Today there are other questions which can be resolved efficiently. It is necessary to influence the development of events locally, first and foremost, through various societies and other cultural institutions of the eastern diaspora: to defend the positions of our state and to oppose the Ukrainophobia that is being instigated by the Russian press and television. This is very important now when the so-called Democratic Russians have surpassed even the Communists in their anti-Ukrainian sentiments.

[Teteruk] It is true that a wave of chauvinist ambitions is apparent in Russia. At least consider the statements in the mass media, which reflect the difficult situation of the Ukraine's Russian-speaking population and other things.

[Drach] The Russians in the Ukraine feel much better than our compatriots in Russia do. The 7 million Ukrainians there do not have any national schools or other cultural institutions. Only recently have societies of national minorities began to be created. In our country,

one-half of all schools are Russian, and many newspapers and magazines are published in the language of our northeastern neighbor.

One other interesting detail: The Russian president is delaying the implementation of German autonomy in the Volga region, where we are planning to do all that we can to facilitate German occupation of the Dneiper area.

[Teteruk] Unfortunately, there are places where our compatriots are far from calm. This mainly concerns those who live in the "hot" spots. This is confirmed by streams of refugees from the Transcaucasus.

[Drach] Of course, sociopolitical circumstances in some regions of the former Soviet Union are such that the question of repatriating Ukrainians from there must be resolved without delay. Besides, the situation in the Muslim republics is getting more complicated, and this deserves serious consideration. We will make every effort to rescue our compatriots.

[Teteruk] No matter how the situation develops, the Diaspora will remain. It is, perhaps, the most important thing to provide it with Ukrainian literature and textbooks, and give it a chance to receive cultural and humanitarian education in the Ukraine.

[Drach] We will try to do everything to this end. I hope that the congress will discuss the need to create separate groups in institutions of higher learning for teaching young Ukrainians of the diaspora in order for them to become specialists in our land and be aware that the Ukraine is their motherland.

Supreme Council Approves National Anthem

AU3101142092 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU
in Ukrainian 18 Jan 92 p 1

["Decree by the Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium on the National Anthem of the Ukraine" issued in Kiev on 15 January 1992]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium resolves as follows:

1. To approve the musical version of the Ukrainian National Anthem whose author is M.M. Verbytsky.
2. To introduce the performance in public of the Ukrainian National Anthem approved by the present decree as from 16 January 1992.
3. To consider as no longer valid the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium decree, issued on 22 March 1978, "On the National Anthem of the Ukrainian SSR" (Proceedings of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, 1978, No. 14, Article 214).

I. Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council
15 January 1992

Belarus

Popular Front Calls For National Referendum

LD0202074192 Moscow TASS in English
1306 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By BELTA correspondent Larisa Lazar]

[Text] Minsk January 31 (BELTA)—Only a government enjoying popular confidence can halt the republic's slide into economic chaos, representatives of the Belarussian Popular Front "Vozrozhdeniye" (Revival) say, arguing in favour of holding a referendum to decide whether to dissolve the present parliament and hold new elections on a multi-party basis.

The idea has caught on among members of the democratic movement who call for radical economic reforms and believe that a referendum would help build independent democratic Belarus, according to a statement published by the NARODNAYA GAZETA today.

Parliamentary Group Defines Servicemen's Status

OW3101150492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A parliamentary expert group responsible for defining the status of the Armed Forces stationed in Belarus has found out that a total of 160,000 servicemen plus 60,000 hired workers and employees are present in the republic.

According to the group's estimates, the size of strategic forces subordinate to the unified command of the Commonwealth member states will have dwindled to 80,000 by 1994.

The experts believe 8 billion rubles earmarked for the Armed Forces' operating expenses in the republican budget will be sufficient if Belarus refrained from purchasing military equipment and armaments.

Businessmen Dissatisfied With Government

LD3101135892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Belarussian businessmen intend to use their own money to pay for a referendum on a vote of no confidence in the government and parliament. The businessmen's dissatisfaction is sparked by the inflexible economic policy and by the introduction of new profit tax rates amounting to 60 percent.

Intelligence Services 'Undermining' Republic

LD3101101892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1554 GMT 28 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Russian Federation cuts off Belarus from counter intelligence information, Belarussian KGB Chairman Eduard Shirkovskiy believes. In an interview with BELARUSKI CHAS weekly (an organ of Trade Union Federation of Belarus) on January 27 Shirkovskiy also said: Intelligence service has not yet been severed from us, while counter intelligence was passed over under Russia's command. There is no cooperation with Moscow along this line. ...

Under various pretexts, namely: investigation of Chernobyl consequences, liquidation of nuclear arsenals, etc, a host of top-class intelligence officers start working against Belarus. An overt recruiting of our citizens is being conducted. ...

We possess information that there are such persons in Belarus to whom we are planning to apply severe counter-measures, notably arrests. Their fate will be determined by court proceedings. ...

Not only CIA is now undermining Belarus, the closest East European neighbors are also widely unfolding their activity. I am personally worried lest such a work starts between the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member-states, Shirkovskiy said. At the latest Belarus Supreme Soviet session, which closed on January 17, military counter-intelligence, formerly subordinated to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the former USSR Defense Ministry, was re-subordinated to the KGB of Belarus, which, in its turn, was re-subordinated to the republican Supreme Soviet at the very same session.

Signed Protocols Establish Foreign Relations

Ties With Vietnam

LD2501043192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1623 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By BELTA correspondent Larisa Lazar]

[Excerpt] Minsk, 24 Jan (TASS)—The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Belarus signed a protocol here today on the establishment of diplomatic relations at the embassy level. In Minsk today, Nikolay Kostikov, deputy chairman of the Belarus Council of Ministers, received an official delegation from Vietnam led by Nguyen Duy Nien, deputy minister of foreign affairs and special envoy of the chairman of the Council of Ministers. The meeting featured discussions on how to further enhance the breadth and depth of bilateral, mutually beneficial cooperation in political and economic matters.

Relations With CFSR

LD0302031192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the CSFR and Belarus was signed today by Zdenek Dienstbier and Petr Kravchenko, the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Relations With Egypt

LD0202160692 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutinin]

[Text] Cairo February 2 ITAR-TASS—Egypt and Belarus decided to establish diplomatic relations, a statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in Cyprus on Sunday [2 February].

This step is aimed at strengthening friendship and traditional cooperation between the two countries, the statement emphasised.

Document Signed With Portugal

LD3101134792 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 0400 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] On 26 January a protocol was signed in Minsk establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Portuguese Republic. Guided by a mutual desire to develop relations of partnership and cooperation in political, economic, cultural, humanitarian, and other fields, and wishing to fulfill their obligations under international law, in particular the United Nations Charter and the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter, the sides agreed to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic missions at the ambassadorial level in accordance with the Vienna Convention.

The Republic of Belarus and the Portuguese Republic are confident that the establishment of diplomatic relations between them in accordance with their national interests will facilitate the consolidation of international cooperation and world peace. The document was signed by Belarussian Foreign Affairs Minister Petr Kravchenko and Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro.

Moldova**Snegur Departs for World Economic Forum**

LD3001222592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0735 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Kishinev, 30 Jan. (MOLDOVAPRESS-TASS)—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur today left

for Switzerland, where he will take part in the meeting of the World Economic Forum, which takes place every year in Davos.

According to a report from the president's press service, Mircea Snegur intends to make a report in which he will assess the prospects for the integration of Moldova into the European and world economy, and also will inform of the necessity of foreign investments in the republic's economy.

Druc To Run in Romanian General Elections

OW0102003192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The newspaper "Free Romania" opposing Romanian President Iliescu reported Friday [31 January] that leader of the Moldovan Popular Front Mircea Druc intends to put forward his candidacy for general elections in Romania to be held in May.

The newspaper did not specify for what post Druc would run: presidential and parliamentary elections will be held simultaneously in Romania.

Observers suggest that Druc has gained popularity among the Romanian population thanks to his persistent struggle for Moldova's incorporation into Romania. The only condition for his participation in the elections is Romanian citizenship.

National Army Expected To Number 20,000

OW0102005792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At least 700 officers of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, Moldovans by origin, would like to serve in the Moldovan National Army, as Director General of the Moldovan Military Department Nikolai Kirtoake told IF [INTERFAX] Friday [31 January]. He said that would be enough to recruit fully the officers' personnel of the National Army which is expected to number about 20,000 people.

Kirtoake added that the Moldovan leadership will not avoid recruiting officers from the South-Western group of forces stationed near Kishinev. Many of them have already applied for service in the Moldovan National Army.

Licensing of Commonwealth Exports Resolved

OW3101150192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan government has passed a resolution defining the method of licensing goods to be exported from the republic to "the countries of the ruble circulation zone".

The government has introduced a two-tier system of licensing exports, with one-time licenses being issued to government ministries and departments by the national economics ministry only. State-run enterprises and independent businesses may receive licenses from local authorities.

The Moldovan government has also introduced customs dues to be levied on legal entities and individuals. 70% of the revenues to be yielded by customs dues are to be channeled to the government budget and the remaining 30% to local budgets.

Diplomatic Relations Sought, Established

Ties With PRC Discussed

*LD3101134192 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[Text] On 27 January, Ion Chebuk, first deputy prime minister and permanent representative of the Republic of Moldova to Moscow, met Wang Jinqing, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Moscow. The Chinese side proposed a draft communique on establishing diplomatic relations between the two states. After some fine-tuning of the formulation, the draft communique was adopted. It will be handed over for approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova.

The Chinese ambassador congratulated the people of Moldova on achieving state independence. I am acquainted with the history of Moldova in broad terms, Wang Jinqing stated. Moldova has a diligent, proud, and magnanimous people who know how to defend their sovereignty and independence and have for a long time.

The Chinese diplomat expressed confidence that cooperation in the most diverse spheres will be very fruitful.

Romanian Diplomats Sent

*LD0102082392 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Jan 92*

[Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, has sent a message to Moldovan Foreign Minister Nikolay Tsyu, saying that in order to achieve the practical implementation of the agreement between the governments of Romania and the Republic of Moldova on establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial

level, it has been decided as part of the first stage to send two Romanian diplomats to Kishinev. They are Ion Bestrianu, minister- counsellor and temporary charge d'affaires, and Aurelian Kreslu, first secretary and chief of the Consular Department at the Embassy.

When preparatory work has been completed at the Romanian Embassy, says the message, the remaining diplomats will be sent to Kishinev, as will the necessary technical staff.

The Romanian diplomats arrived in Kishinev yesterday. They were met by Foreign Minister Nikolay Tsyu and President Mircea Snegur. They held a meeting during which they discussed issues connected with the Romanian Embassy beginning to operate in the Republic of Moldova. The sides expressed hope that bilateral diplomatic activity will be fruitful.

Plans With Bulgaria

*OW0302120592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1038 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 5, Moldova and Bulgaria intend to sign a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Moldovan and Bulgarian presidents reached a corresponding agreement in Switzerland, where they are taking part in the international economic forum. According to sources close to the Moldovan Foreign Ministry, the Bulgarian president will visit Kishinev soon.

Protesters Accuse Romania of Supplying Weapons

*AU0202205492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network
in Romanian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] Extremist elements from among the ranks of the separatists in the so-called Dnestrian Republic today organized a protest action at the headquarters of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova in Moscow, TASS reports.

Representatives of the Defense Union of Soviet Citizens of the Russian Workers Movement and other formations and organizations, which regret communism and the former Soviet Union, participated in this provocative action.

According to the same source, a similar action was organized at noon in front of the Romanian Embassy in Moscow. The participants in this action claimed—in a provocative manner and without any foundation—that Romania allegedly had supplied weapons to the Republic of Moldova, ROMPRES reports.

Armenia

President Backs NKAO Peacekeeping Force

LD0302102392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan has backed the Russian leadership's proposal to send Commonwealth peacekeeping forces to Nagorno-Karabakh. At the same time, he did not rule out the possibility that the United Nations may intervene if there is a further deterioration of the situation in NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast]. Levon Ter-Petrosyan spoke in the Swiss town of Davos at the world economic forum.

Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, who is in Davos, in turn said that he has nothing against international observers being sent to NKAO to monitor the situation, POSTFACTUM reports.

Prime Minister: NKAO Should Be Independent

LD3001225292 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2210 GMT 30 Jan 92

[By INTER-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Nagorno-Karabakh should belong neither to Armenia nor to Azerbaijan. This is the surest way toward its independence, Armenian Foreign Minister R. Ovanesyan told journalists. He is taking part in a session of the Helsinki Council of Foreign Ministers. "This is not a territorial issue, and Armenia does not have any territorial claims," the minister stressed. He believes that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is one of human rights and the right of citizens to self-determination.

The minister noted that the Armenian Government supports any peace initiatives leading to the settlement of the Karabakh problem, including sending UN peacekeeping forces or a CSCE observers' mission to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Minister To Make NKAO Into 'Fortress'

LD0202093692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh's defenses will grow stronger with each passing day. They are being organized at an appropriate state level. This declaration was made on 2 February evening by Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan in an interview for republican television. The minister expressed the view that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh over the coming months will be extremely difficult from the military point of view. Our ultimate objective, he declared, is to make Nagorno-Karabakh an impregnable fortress.

Mutalibov Turkish Tour, NKAO Attack Linked

NC3101191492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] After returning from Turkey, the president of Azerbaijan launched a large-scale attack against the Armenians. Apparently that visit gave him encouragement. In an interview in Baku, he referred to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and said: "Those who favor a peaceful resolution to the conflict imposed on us—which in essence stems from territorial claims—are conducting accentuated anti-Azerbaijani propaganda in the international press and are creating the impression that there is no greater pleasure for Azerbaijan than attacking the Armenians and burning down their homes. But everything is the other way around. The Nagorno-Karabakh problem is an internal affair and a matter of principle for Azerbaijan. No matter how difficult it might prove for us, no matter how much loss we sustain, we cannot and will not appeal to any international organization. This is because we do not want to internationalize the conflict, something the Armenians desire greatly."

Can you see the outright allegation in that statement? Yet, even this statement by Mutalibov failed to raise his prestige in the eyes of the Azerbaijani People's Front leaders. During the congress in Baku, the Front's leaders stated that the Azerbaijani leadership is acting passively in the defense of Azerbaijan's interests in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Front adopted a declaration which states that "the Armenian guerrillas are continuing to uproot the Azerbaijani population."

Related to this, Mutalibov spoke on Baku radio and exploited the crash of the helicopter which was flying from Agdam to Shusha. He emphasized that it was carrying women and children to Shusha. The question arises: Why were the "women and children" leaving peaceful Agdam for Shusha, which was being shelled? Again putting the blame on the "Armenian guerrillas," he assured the families of the victims and the entire Azerbaijani people that "all the participants in that inhuman act would be severely punished."

The boisterous talker also has a big appetite. While in Turkey, he signed a trade and economic agreement, an embassy will be opened in Ankara and a consulate in Istanbul, cooperation will start in television and education, and an Istanbul-Baku air route will be opened. Turkey will provide 1 million tonnes of wheat to Azerbaijan, 100,000 tonnes of which will be free of charge.

In Azerbaijan, Mutalibov is exerting efforts to create the republic's own army. The army so far formed is already fighting against the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. The future army is being formed on the foundation of units of the former Soviet Army which have remained in Azerbaijan. Since Azerbaijan does not have an officers corps, the Azerbaijani president has instructed that the non-Azerbaijani servicemen should not leave that "internationalist" republic.

There are rumors that the Azerbaijani officers will be trained in Turkey, a NATO member. But motivated by certain considerations, Mutalibov has denied that Turkish-Azerbaijani military cooperation was discussed in Ankara. What's wrong with a denial? After all, the amount of arms brought in through Nakhichevan is not inconsequential.

Legislative Commission Rejects Russian Treaty

OW0102180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1640 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian parliamentary commission on foreign relations is opposed to ratification of the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual security between Armenia and Russia in the form it was signed by Boris Yeltsin and Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The Snark news agency reports the treaty's ratification has been put on the agenda of the forthcoming parliamentary session to open February 10. Chairman of the commission David Vardanyan told journalists that his commission proposes that working groups from both sides elaborate the treaty and only after that submit it to the parliament. Armenia, as well as Russia which has not ratified the treaty, has strong objections against the third article of the treaty about mutual military aid.

Eastern Border Guard Chief Appointed

NC0202180092 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network
in Armenian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Commanders of border guard battalions held a meeting today at the Armenian Defense Ministry during which Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan introduced the commanders of the military posts and border guard of Armenia's northern and eastern borders.

Deputy Defense Minister Grigor Grigoryan was appointed chief of the republic's new Border Guard Regiment Directorate.

The participants, the new commanders of the military posts, the representatives of the senior [word indistinct] corps assured that [words indistinct] the military structure of this division of the Armenian Army now under formation would be augmented with professional [words indistinct]. By their military discipline, knowledge of martial art, and patriotism the border guards will be an example for the entire [word indistinct].

Azerbaijan

Reportage Highlights Renewed NKAO Violence

NKAO Appeals to UN

NC3101160292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network
in Armenian 1500 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Nagorno-Karabakh Is Requesting Help"—headline]

[Text] Today we received from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet press center the following appeal made to the UN Security Council, world parliaments, international public organizations, and to the mass media:

The Azerbaijani National Army launched a large-scale offensive against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh early on the morning of 31 January. Tanks, armored cars, and artillery pieces are taking part in the offensive. Two tanks, armored cars, and a few hundred armed men invaded the Armenian-inhabited Khramort village bordering Azerbaijan. The Armenian-inhabited [name indistinct] and Khanabad villages were surrounded by the tanks and military hardware. At the same time, Stepanakert city, Askeran Rayon center, and the nearby Armenian villages were being subjected to intensive artillery shelling.

A [word indistinct] genocide of the Armenians on their own lands is taking place before the entire world. The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh calls on the international public to urgently raise its voice against the usurpers and the organizers of the genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh.

All the radio stations in the NKR are issuing appeals [words indistinct].

Foreign Ministry on 'Undeclared War'

NC3101171592 Baku Radio Baku Network
in Azeri 0300 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text of statement by Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[Text] An Azeri civil aviation helicopter flying between Agdam and Shusha was downed by armed Armenians on 28 January 1992. The helicopter was carrying around 40 passengers, including the crew members. A horrible crime was committed, in which [words indistinct] including women and children.

The peaceful Azerbaijani towns and cities have been attacked in the past four years by Armenian terrorist groups claiming to be self-defense forces and supported by the [word indistinct] of Armenia's leaders and circles, which wish to disrupt stability in the region.

The forces, which are trying to change regional borders by disrupting the security of countries and peoples which coexist, and the circles that support the forces have (?displayed) a merciless and inhuman [word indistinct]. This has created an undeclared war between the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples and a situation that conflicts with international law.

Armed men and groups are being sent from the neighboring republic to Azerbaijan, contravening the Alma-Ata Declaration signed by the heads of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] on the inviolability of state borders. Hundreds of peaceful Azerbaijani citizens

have been killed and many acts of terrorism have been committed. The weapons have destroyed two helicopters.

While the United Nations condemns all terrorism, the armed Armenian groups' activities can be described as nothing else but terrorism. [words indistinct] has reached such proportions that no one can predict the outcome of the present situation.

Responsibility for this state of affairs lies with the Armenian side. Interference in Azerbaijan's internal affairs is unacceptable, and we demand an end to plots against Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and against its citizens' daily life.

President Urges 'Decisive' Action

LD3101194292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] The Moscow-based daily NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA says that for a few days running the fiercest-ever clashes between Azeri troops and Armenian armed groupings have been taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov has addressed an emergency session of the National Security Council with a proposal that decisive action be taken to protect Azeri villages in that area. Earlier, President Mutalibov repeatedly stressed it was exclusively up to his republic to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. He favors a nonviolent solution to that conflict, but has warned his republic will tolerate no infringement on its territorial integrity.

CSCE To Send Mission

LD3101185992 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague January 31 TASS—The council of foreign ministers of countries participating in the Helsinki process decided to send urgently a mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to Nagorno-Karabakh. The decision was made at a session here on Friday [31 January] at Britain's proposal.

The mission is to go to the area of Azerbaijanian-Armenian conflict within the next weeks. On the basis of the information received it will submit a report to senior officials committee. The committee should in turn give the conclusion whether obligations under the European process that Armenia and Azerbaijan adopted in Prague on Thursday [30 January] are violated in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russia Offers To Mediate

LD3101204492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is becoming more and more difficult to tell the difference between the towns and villages of NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast] by their appearance. People's concerns remain unchanged: how to get warm, how to feed the children, how to get water, and how to survive.

The town of Shusha recently has found itself in the main conflict zone. The Azerbaijani side reports that the town has been surrounded for several days and that it is being fired on by Armenian fighters. It also is said that there have been several attempts to storm the town. According to Armenian sources, this town is the base of Azerbaijani armed formations. The rocket and artillery bombardment of Stepanakert is being carried out from there. An MI-8 plane was shot down just before landing in Shusha, and all those onboard perished. Their funerals took place yesterday. Both sides are using modern weapons, and there are more and more of them. The danger of an outbreak of a large-scale war between Armenia and Azerbaijan has arisen. This is the conclusion made by some observers.

In this situation, Russia has offered its service as a go-between in the peaceful settlement of the conflict. This was stated in a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Hostilities Continue

LD0102171192 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Report by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Stepanakert (Khankendi) February 1 TASS—Intensive hostilities continue in Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian self-defense forces mounted a counter-offensive at 6:00 today and liberated Khrumort and Farrukh villages in the Askeransky District, which were seized and burnt out by Azeri armed groups with the support of armoured vehicles and artillery on Friday [31 January].

According to a report by the self-defense forces staff, Armenian fighting men crippled four armoured personnel carriers, which were left on the battlefield, and seized one such vehicle. The same report says about 30 Azerbaijanis were killed in the fighting.

Police Colonel Armen Isagulov, head of the Interior Ministry department for Nagorno-Karabakh, told ITAR-TASS that the Armenian side lost four people dead and 14 injured.

New forces are now being concentrated on the border of Azerbaijan's Agdamsky district which neighbors Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeransky District.

All district centres of the region and Stepanakert (Khankendi) came under intensive missile and artillery bombardment on Friday afternoon and at night. Asagulov said 135 missiles and artillery shells were fired at the city injuring eight people and causing heavy destruction.

Three people were reported injured in Mardakertsky District. Armenian self-defense forces smashed several weapon emplacements of Azeri armed groups.

The bombardment of Stepanakert with missiles and shells resumed at 10:30 today.

Yerevan February 1 by ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondent—Azeri National Army units launched a large-scale operation to seize Armenian villages located on the border between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's Agdamsky district on January 31.

The operation was supported by artillery, tanks and armoured vehicles. The self-defense forces in Khramort village, where tanks and armoured vehicles rolled in, were forced to retreat by Friday evening. Combat operations continued for the whole night.

A spokesman at the headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces said that Azeri army units were dislodged from Khramort village and pushed back from Khanabad, Nakhichevanik, Voskevaz and Sarnakhyur villages.

Isagulov believes new massive attacks on these villages are possible today. It is reported that three killed and 11 injured defenders of Khramort village were taken to Stepanakert. The capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic continues to be intensively pounded. The fire comes from the city of Shusha. Upwards of 100 Alazan missiles were fired at the city in the past 24 hours, injuring 13 civilians.

NKAO Leader Leaves for Moscow

*OW0102174192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1640 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Excerpts] The press office of the Armenian Operational Center has informed IF [INTERFAX] that in the afternoon, February 1, Azeri armed formations renewed their attacks on Armenian villages. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Artur Mkrtchyan, flew out from Yerevan to Moscow on Saturday [1 February]. According to the agency Snark, the leader of Nagorno-Karabakh intends to discuss various aspects of the military units' presence in Karabakh with the Russian leaders and with the commanders of the Commonwealth Armed Forces. Earlier, the Presidium of the Karabakh parliament stated that "the presence of the former Union's armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh was a strong deterrent" and that their withdrawal would encourage Azerbaijan's military aggression against Armenians.

Baku Rally Urges Tougher Measures

*NC0102195392 Baku Radio Baku Network
in Azeri 1800 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] The Azerbaijani People's Front held a rally today in Baku's Azadlyk Square regarding the tense situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. People's Front leader Abulfaz Aliyev in opening the rally said that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh has never been so unstable. He said 27 Azerbaijani towns have been depopulated in the region and the [words indistinct].

People's Deputy Arif Hadzhiyev and Tofik Gasimov also addressed the rally. In their statements they pointed out the failure of the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry [words indistinct].

Other speakers pointed out that it is past due to impose order and to take urgent measures to wipe out the Armenian guerrillas from Nagorno-Karabakh as soon as possible.

Demonstrators Demand Army Mobilization

*LD0202163892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0600 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] Meetings have been held in various parts of Azerbaijan at which speakers opposed the internationalization of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem because it is a domestic matter for Azerbaijan to settle. A public meeting was held in Baku. The participants protested the government's policy on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Some speakers called for the dialogue between the opposition and the government to continue. Others considered such a dialogue to be impossible, since the government is, in their view, powerless to change the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The meeting adopted a resolution in which it demands that the government of the republic announce the mobilization of the Azerbaijan National Army and punish the people responsible for surrendering Azerbaijani villages to Armenians. It also proposed the establishment of a parliamentary commission to investigate the surrender of the villages to the enemy. If these demands are not met, the government should resign.

'Soviet' Army Said Involved

*LD0202141692 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijani news agency TURAN reports that Azerbaijan is concerned about the possibility of the outbreak of military action by the Armenian national army along the border with Armenia. According to a report by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs, the intensive displacement of Armenian armed formations along the border with Azerbaijan has been observed over the past few days. Unmarked helicopters

are making frequent flights in the area of Nakhichevan and in other border sections.

The same agency reports that the Soviet [as heard] Army is taking part in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Let me remind you that the TURAN agency reports that, yesterday and today, nine Soviet Army helicopters airlifted Armenian armed forces and arms from the territory of Armenia to the area of military actions. Moreover, subunits of the Armenian national army are using arms and materiel of the motorized rifle regiment deployed in Khankendi [Stepanakert].

Colonel on UN Peacekeeping Plan

LD0202161692 Moscow TASS in English
1526 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Stepanakert (Khankendi) February 2 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement at a news conference in New York that UN peacekeeping forces should be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh, was positively appraised by Colonel Armen Isagulov, chief of the Interior Agency of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In an interview to ITAR-TASS, he said that if this measure does not offer a political solution to the Karabakh problem, it will at least help end senseless bloodshed.

Meanwhile bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh continues. A report of the Interior Agency of Nagorno-Karabakh says that in the past day, units of the Azerbaijani army supported by armoured vehicles and artillery made fresh attempts to cease Armenian populated localities in the Mardakert and Askeran districts. The attempts were thwarted by Armenian self-defence forces. Martuni, Leninavan, Buzlukh, Karachinar and Dzhanyatag populated localities were shelled last night.

Twenty shells were fired at Stepanakert from Shusha from ten A.M. to one P.M. on Sunday [2 February]. Three wounded residents were hospitalised. Buildings were damaged. Fire from armed vehicles was opened at noon on the Armenian village of Karin-Tak (Dashaly) of the Shusha district. By five P.M. there were no reports if anyone was injured. The shooting continues.

Fighting Continues; Stepanakert Shelled

NC0202201992 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network
in Armenian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] The shelling of the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] began at 1200 today from the direction of the Azerbaijani-inhabited town of Shusha. A two-year-old child was injured. The self-defense forces (?silenced) yet another enemy position.

The fighting was fierce all day and night on 1 February along the Azerbaijani settlements bordering Askeranskiy Rayon, and the Azerbaijanis were repulsed. The freedom

fighters burned one enemy armored car and the [words indistinct]. Enemy attempts to occupy some strategic points in Askeranskiy Rayon failed.

The Azerbaijani Army has resumed its intensive shelling of the villages of Nakhichevanik, Sarnakhpyur, Varazabun, Vardadzor, Voskevaz, Khramort, and Farukh. According to preliminary reports, 23 houses were destroyed or burned down in Nakhichevanik, and two residents were injured. [Words indistinct] about the victims and destruction. There is no information on enemy losses.

The shelling of the Armenian-inhabited border villages of Avdur and Myurishen in Martuninskiy Rayon continued the evening of 1 February. There is no information on casualties or destruction.

The Armenian-inhabited villages of Leninavan, Karmiravan, Artsvashen, and (?Hartavan) in Mardakertskiy Rayon came under fierce artillery and rocket fire in the evening and night of 1-2 February. This morning, the Azerbaijani Army launched an artillery offensive along the rayon's entire border area. The Armenian freedom fighters countered their attacks. Preliminary reports indicate that 10 houses were partially damaged in Leninavan, one person was killed and (?two) were injured. Another man was injured in Karmiravan.

At 1130 the fighting resumed near the Armenian-inhabited village of Karin-Tak in Shushinskiy Rayon. The village is coming under attack from the direction of Shusha with support from three armored cars. The fighting continues. A short while ago we received information that the freedom fighters have checked the Azerbaijani offensive in Karin-Tak; however, the exchange of fire is continuing.

The situation is somewhat [word indistinct] along the Askeranskiy-Agdamskiy border. Gunfire continues in the area.

National Security Council Meets

LD0202164392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1330 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] The national security council of Azerbaijan convened today in Baku in connection with the worsening situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. According to the press service of the Azerbaijani Republic, Armenian mercenaries have erected numerous fortifications and laid minefields around Khodzhal, on the approaches to Shusha. They have shelled Shusha several times during the day, as well as a number of other Azerbaijani villages.

According to the LUR independent information center, the Azerbaijani army today intensified artillery and machine-gun fire against Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh. LUR reports that one person died and nine were injured during the bombardment.

Conflict Enters 'Decisive Stage'

LD0202222792 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Feb 92

["Vesti" video report from Moscow by N. Pavlov and commentary by T. Aldashina]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pavlov] The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh remains as tense as before. Every day alarming reports, contradictory reports, come from there. That is why we set off to the Moscow missions of Armenia and Azerbaijan in order get first-hand information.

[F.Mamikoyan, Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow] Naturally, from the eastern part of Nagorno-Karabakh, a large-scale offensive is under way against Nagorno-Karabakh. The town of Agdam is the centre of these preparations. The headquarters of this army and the main troop formation are concentrated there. Attacks are taking place from there, and an offensive is under way against Armenian villages. Every day children are dying and elderly people are dying because intensive artillery shelling is going on.

[Pavlov] Unfortunately, we did not succeed in receiving the Azerbaijan version of the situation. At the Azerbaijan permanent mission, we met with two militiamen who explained to us that on days off nobody comes there.

[Aldashina] However, Azerbaijan journalists work, just as we do, without days off. We received information from the Azerbaijan Internal Affairs Ministry, according to which the offensive against positions of Armenian guerillas was started after Azerbaijan had accused Armenian partisans of destroying a helicopter. Fifty-five people were killed as a result of this incident. Combat operations were concentrated today along the lines of the Agdam and Askeran rayons. Both Armenian and Azerbaijani settlements are being subjected to artillery shelling.

The Azerbaijan army is seeking to advance deep into Karabakh. The Independent News Agency reports that Azerbaijan has captured two settlements on the territory of Karabakh. The Armenian LUR information center reports that the villages of Farukh and Khramont were almost completely burned down and destroyed in the course of today's battles. The Armenian self-defense detachments are containing the advance of the Azerbaijani formations with difficulty. Over 30 people were killed in the past 24 hours.

A 10,000-strong rally took place in Baku today at which demands were voiced that the government put an end to the Karabakh conflict or resign. To all appearances, the Armenian-Azerbaijani confrontation is entering a decisive stage. Armenia is in a determined mood: Karabakh must become an impregnable fortress.

However, according to assessments by observers, without support from abroad, the inhabitants of

Nagorno-Karabakh will only be able to hold out for a few days. Azerbaijan regards Karabakh as its internal problem and does not intend to appeal for assistance to international organizations. Therefore all appeals to the leadership by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to the United Nations and the world community may go unanswered.

'Balanced' Observer Group Urged

NC0202192192 Paris AFP in English
1900 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By Sinan Fisek]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Feb 2 (AFP)—Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov accepted the principle Sunday [2 February] that international observers should monitor the tense situation in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. "Let them come, let them really see what the situation is" he told AFP.

But Mutalibov stopped short of endorsing the presence of a peacekeeping force to separate Christian Armenians and Muslim Azeris to end the fighting that has resulted in the deaths of more than 60 people since Friday [31 January]. Azerbaijan has so far maintained that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is a domestic matter that should not be internationalized, and an Armenian official, Ruben Shugaryan, told AFP Sunday that his country was prepared to receive "any observer, from any country or any organization."

Mutalibov said, however, that any such monitoring group should be balanced, "such as Russians and Turks, or Russians and Iranians." But a senior Russian official here said it was unlikely that Moscow, which withdrew its last forces from the enclave in December, would agree to assume such a role. "There is a move toward isolationism in the Russian parliament," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Moscow is worried that the issue could split the struggling Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) along religious lines, with the Christian republics of the former Soviet Union backing Armenia and those of the Muslim belt throwing their support behind Azerbaijan. Galina Starovoytova, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's adviser on nationalities issues, said the fighting in the Caucasus should be treated as "a real war." "It is very dangerous," she told AFP, "because it is along the religious wall (that divides the CIS) and could lead to involvement of other countries." She also accused Azerbaijan of "receiving weapons from abroad. This could be the beginning of a new genocide" of Armenians, she said, and the other Soviet official agreed, saying some Azeris believed "they can solve the problem in two weeks by completely wiping out Nagorno-Karabakh."

But both Mutalibov and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, as they spoke Sunday evening before the World Economic Forum here along with presidents of five of the other ex-Soviet republics on the future of the

CIS, remained discreet in their references to Nagorno-Karabakh. "For the time being, unfortunately, all our attempts to find a solution have been to no avail," Ter-Petrosyan said. "With international observers, we might find a solution acceptable to both sides."

Mutalibov was even more oblique, saying simply that "many hot spots exist" in the CIS, where the search for national identities should not result in "policies (that lead to) bloodshed, tears and refugees—things that repel normal people." Mutalibov had said in an interview Saturday [1 February] that he saw no end to the fighting unless Armenian "terrorists" and "mercenaries" were withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Shugaryan, an aide to Ter-Petrosyan, said this was impossible because the "terrorists" Mutalibov referred to were "Armenian villagers, women and children. We do not refute that they are armed," he said. "They have organized themselves into self-defense groups."

There is an element of truth in Mutalibov's charge that there are "mercenaries" fighting for the Armenians, Shugaryan said, but stressed that they were "volunteers—not bribed at all—who have come to defend Armenians, because the problem has become international." He said Nagorno-Karabakh's capital of Stepanakert and the nearby town of Shaumyanov were under constant attack from artillery guns, missile-launchers and infantrymen.

Mutalibov said Saturday that his forces were maintaining "heavy fire" on the Armenians to break their siege of Shusha, which he said was "surrounded by Armenian forces who want to invade and hold it[ellipses as received] to create a bridge with Armenia."

The current fighting, he said, was sparked by "strong recent Armenian attacks.... [ellipses as received] on our towns, which resulted in 10,000 Azeris being displaced from their homes."

Shugaryan denied this, saying the displaced Azeris were "special militia" and that Mutalibov was "using this as an excuse to shell Armenian villages."

The Armenians launched the last round of fighting, Mutalibov said, to seize a dozen Azerbaijani towns and open a link with Armenia. "What country would give up its own lands without a fight?" Mutalibov asked; "how can an enclave of 200,000 attack a country of seven million?" Shugaryan countered.

Mutalibov in Switzerland To Attend Forum

LD3101144692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov has changed his plans again and decided to take part in the international economic forum in Switzerland. A representative of the president's press service reported that Mutalibov arrived today in Davos and intends to speak at the forum later.

On 29 January Ayaz Mutalibov said that he had postponed his trip in connection with the crash of the Azerbaijani helicopter in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The president of Azerbaijan gave assurances that a heavy penalty awaits all those involved in this case. Up until now the conflicting Azerbaijani and Armenian sides are accusing each other of organizing the crash of the helicopter and the death of its passengers. This incident had led to a noticeable exacerbation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. It has made more complicated the search for a peaceful solution to the problem between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Republic To Join Economic Cooperation Group

LD3101210292 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 31, IRNA—The newly independent Azerbaijan Republic is to join the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which presently groups Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

ECO secretary general, Iran's 'Ali Reza Salari, who is visiting the Azerbaijan Republic, said in a press conference in Baku last night, that the Transcaucasus Muslim republic bordering northwestern Iran on the Caspian Sea coast would be the first to join ECO since its establishment in 1954.

He disclosed that the organisation has received a similar request for membership from the Turkmenistan Republic on the eastern shores of the Caspian.

According to Salari, an ECO common market is to be established soon in view of the objective of the organization to promote economic, cultural and technical cooperation among member states.

The ECO summit is to be held in Tehran early February.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Intends To Continue 'Struggle'

Claims Legal President

PM3101134592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Zviad Gamsakhurdia, deposed president of Georgia, by unnamed TASS correspondent; place and date not given: "Zviad Gamsakhurdia in Combat With External and Internal Foes"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] TASS correspondent is the only journalist who knows today the exact whereabouts of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the disgraced president of Georgia. But he cannot speak about this for reasons of professional etiquette. Below we publish the most typical extracts from his interview with Z. Gamsakhurdia.

[TASS] Mr. President, explain, if possible, the causes which made you refuse to compromise with the opposition.

[Gamsakhurdia] The question itself is the consequence of the disinformation which is now being disseminated worldwide by the so-called opposition, that is, the Georgian military junta. They are not choosy about their methods, as we know. The first thing that typifies them is lies and disinformation.

The claim that I was intractable and did not desire compromise with the opposition has no basis in fact.

[TASS] Today you have in effect been deposed. According to the latest statistics, you are supported by only 7 percent of the Georgian population. The number of your supporters is dwindling disastrously. What are you relying on?

[Gamsakhurdia] You say that I am supported by only 7 percent of the Georgian population. Permit me ask: On what statistics? What official statistics do you possess—from sociological research and the information of competent people? It is straight from the words of Kitovani, a leader of criminal gangs.

It is not true that I have been deposed. Legally I remain president. I was elected by the people. I have not abdicated from the presidency. I have not offered my resignation.

I do not intend to leave Georgia. I intend to continue the struggle.

[TASS] Extremely serious charges are being leveled against you, in particular, of appropriating large sums of money, including hard currency.

[Gamsakhurdia] These charges are being made against me by criminals. They are pretenders. They cannot be public servants, because they appropriated public office for themselves.

[TASS] Mr. President, why did you choose the path of breaking with the other independent states, whereas your neighbors—Armenia and Azerbaijan—decided to join the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]?

[Gamsakhurdia] I did not choose the path of breaking with them. This is also disinformation. On the contrary, we tried in every possible way to strengthen ties with the independent states and to have good relations with them. But the opposition created such a situation for us that no steps were possible. And this was done deliberately.

[TASS] How do you see the immediate future of interethnic relations in the Caucasus?

[Gamsakhurdia] There is much that is unpleasant, unfortunately, in interethnic relations in the Caucasus: feuds, disagreements. And this is being fomented, I am sure, by the enemies of the Caucasus. But we must do everything so that the Caucasian peoples stop being enemies and

create a kind of common home where everyone lives in peace and mutual understanding. For me this has always been the main thing in my politics.

The day before yesterday I personally wrote an appeal to the United Nations and to the peoples and governments of the world, and to all people of good will. In it I called on everyone to expose the junta and the criminal gangs which are operating now in Georgia in the name of the so-called provisional government.

I would like once again to call on all to whom the ideals of democracy, freedom, and human rights are dear, for whom the fate of an entire people, who find themselves in an extremely disastrous situation, is not a matter of indifference to study in detail the situation in Georgia and help the Georgian people restore legality, the lawful power, and a normal life.

Urges 'Insubordination'

LD0102213992 Moscow Russian Television
Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer D. Flyarkovskiy] Unique material has come into the hands of our editorial office—an interview with Zviad Gamsakhurdia recorded in the building in western Georgia where the overthrown president spends most of his time, probably at the moment as well. [video shows poor-quality pictures of Gamsakhurdia, dressed in a suit and seated at a desk]

[Gamsakhurdia, in Georgian with superimposed Russian translation] I and my comrades-in-arms have left the Supreme Soviet Building, but we have not left the battlefield and we will continue the fight. We left the city because the destruction and the bloodshed on its streets were continuing, and we wanted all of this to cease. However, our expectations were not justified. The junta is continuing its destructive actions which are directed against the people. A plot by traitors of the motherland has won a temporary victory—and precisely as a result of this coup d'état directed against the people and against the nation.

I believe profoundly that the Georgian people will not submit to rule by the junta and I call all of my compatriots to insubordination. Not a single order or appeal by the junta should be carried out. The people's opposition is continuing. And together with the whole people, I am offended for those who died. This is our history, this is our fate. And the battle today should not end until we finally bring about, until we restore the constitutional government. God preserve us in this just battle.

We will recall the wisdom of our forefathers—fight for the truth and the Lord will fight with you.

Interview 'Week Old'

*LD0202191792 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Reports from the hotspots of the Transcaucasus. Yesterday "Vesti" broadcast an interview with Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The [Georgian] Provisional Government immediately lodged a protest with us and demanded that we make it clear that the recording was a week old—we make that clear.

Also, in reply to the Georgian wits who dubbed Slava Flyarkovskiy ["Vesti" announcer] a resuscitation expert, we would point out that rumors about the demise of Gamsakhurdia have been greatly exaggerated.

Gamsakhurdia Said 'Gravely Ill'

*OW0202144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1404 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tengiz Kitovani, a Georgian leader, went on TV to say that he knew the whereabouts of the ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who, Kitovani said, was gravely ill.

Kitovani accused Armenia and Abkhazia of attempts to destabilize the situation in Georgia. According to him, the 120 Armenian passengers on two buses who had been taken hostage were in reality exchanged for Zviad Gamsakhurdia and 20 of his close associates.

On Sunday [2 February] more than 20 supporters of the Georgian ousted president were detained at a Tbilisi square on charges of violation of passport regime during a state of emergency. Patrols have been reinforced in the vicinity of the rail terminal square, the place of recent demonstrations in support of Gamsakhurdia.

According to the press-center of the Military Council, the situation in western Georgia is stabilizing. On February 1 Zugdidi went to the polls to elect a local government. For the first time during the past few days, there were no nighttime shootings in the town. The city port and railway have resumed a normal schedule of work.

The situation remains tense in Abkhazia, including the Gulripsh district, where Gamsakhurdia's main forces are concentrated. A train carrying cargos for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia was held up there. An Abkhaz police post was stationed at the Abkhaz-Georgian border.

Supporters Rally in Tbilisi

*LD3101161292 Berlin ADN in German
1400 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Excerpt] Tbilisi/Moscow (ADN)—Over 2,000 supporters of the ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia gathered again for a rally on Rustaveli Prospekt outside

the government building in Tbilisi this afternoon. ADN learned from the Georgian capital that they were protesting against the new rulers of Georgia and demanding an immediate reinstatement of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was deposed at the beginning of the year. Only yesterday the security forces of the transitional government under Tengiz Sigua dispersed a similar demonstration with fire trucks.

ADN was also told that a 2300-0700 night curfew is still in force in the city. Under a decree by the city commander, the security forces have the right to carry out body searches and check vehicles at any time with immediate effect. New regulations for entering and leaving the city are also being applied.

According to information from the Georgian news agency IPRINDA, electricity supplies to the city are still a problem. There are repeated power cuts in various districts. Telephone connections in Tbilisi, especially in the city center, are broken. There is disruption to the public transport system, particularly in the evenings. [passage omitted]

Tbilisi 'Order' Issued

*AU0202173692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network
in Georgian 1400 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Order issued by Senior Major Gela Lanchava, commander of the Tbilisi Garrison, in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Text] There have been gross violations of the state of emergency in Tbilisi by supporters of the former government in spite of the fact that the Republic of Georgia Military Council has declared a state of emergency and established a curfew. These violations have taken the form of (?marches), demonstrations, street rallies, and public gatherings by several hundred supporters of the former president. These are preventing the rapid normalization of the situation and have been prohibited by the corresponding order.

With the aim of preventing mass disorder, quickly normalizing the situation, and restoring law and order in Tbilisi, I order that:

1. A special authority be introduced in Tbilisi from 1 February until 1 March 1992 regarding entry into and departure from the city. Proceeding from this, persons detained during curfew hours who have no document of their registration in Tbilisi or identity card or proof that they have come to Tbilisi on business will be viewed as having violated the public order. They will be banished at their own expense to their own permanent place of residence or beyond the borders of the area under a state of emergency.

In addition to fulfilling the requirements mentioned in the first part of this point, persons who have come from the republic's rayons to Tbilisi on business will have to have a special visa issued by the rayon's Military Council

plenipotentiary or by the chairman of the board of the temporary agency of local administration.

2. Rallies, (?marches), street demonstrations, strikes, and the organization of other measures on a large scale are to be prohibited while the state of emergency and curfew remain in force.

3. Transportation is to be restricted and searches are to be organized.

4. The creation and activities of armed formations of citizens that have not been (?authorized) by the Republic of Georgia Military Council are to be prohibited.

5. Documents are to be checked at sites of mass gatherings. If there are appropriate grounds, those present are to be searched and their belongings and vehicles checked.

6. Residents are prohibited during curfew hours from being on the streets or in other public places or from leaving the confines of their apartments unless they have a special pass issued by me and their identification documents.

7. In accordance with the requirements established in Points One, Two, and Three of this order [not specified] and those requirements stipulated in the first part of Point Seven [not specified], those committing violations will be (?obliged) to pay an administrative fine of up to 1,500 rubles or be imprisoned for a maximum period of 30 days if the violations do not lead to prosecution in line with current legislation.

The records of (?criminal cases) are to be compiled by the staff of the commandant's office who I have personally selected for this purpose. I will examine these records personally within three days.

This order takes effect at 2400 on 1 February and will remain in force until 2400 1 March. This order may be annulled or suspended before the date stipulated in Point Nine [not specified] has expired as soon as there has been a marked stabilization in the situation in Tbilisi.

[Signed] Senior Major Gela Lanchava, commander of the Tbilisi Garrison

Rallies, Counter-Rallies Held

LD0102174492 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1515 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritshvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A rally near the building of the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic introduced a bit of diversity into the political life of the capital of Georgia at around 1500, this time in support of

the new authorities. However, an hour later the supporters of the former president seized the initiative, almost 10,000 of them arriving there to hold a demonstration [manifestatsiya].

More organized and in fivefold greater numbers, they supplanted their opponents without any excesses. Alongside political demands, the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia sharply criticized the provisional government for the liberalization of prices in the republic. Water cannons were not turned on them today, and the rally broke quietly up after an hour of chanting toasts and curses.

More Demonstrations

OW0202165792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1607 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [2 February] afternoon tension mounted in Tbilisi after several people were arrested in the Tbilisi rail terminal on charges of violations of the passport regime. 5000 supporters of the ousted president Gamsakhurdia assembled on the rail terminal square.

After a brief rally they moved to the center of the city until they came against a roadblock. However, the rally did not disperse until the police and national guards began to shoot in the air.

An hour later Gamsakhurdia's supporters staged another rally, this time supervised by the guards and the police, at the TV building.

No reports of injuries have come through, but Gamsakhurdia's supporters claim some people were injured. The republican Health Ministry reports that one person died and several were injured.

Railway Rally Results

AU0302093692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network
in Georgian 0500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Summary From Poor Reception] "As we have been informed by the Georgian Interior Ministry, a rally was held by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia yesterday at Railway Station Square. The participants then moved toward the town center. Near the circus, representatives of the Military Commandant's Office tried to disperse them with water cannon. Firearms were used by some of those participating in the rally. Forces of the Commandant's Office returned fire. In addition, those participating in the rally ransacked the [words indistinct] rayon militia department."

"According to information from the city's Commandant's Office, some of those in the rally were armed." They were the first to open fire. Some of those with firearms were detained. The remainder positioned themselves on the roofs of high buildings in Railway Station Square. "In a battle near Marjanishvili subway station

yesterday six people were wounded. This information comes from the Military Commandant's Office."

"We add that the rally's [word indistinct] organizers have been detained, and an investigation is under way." The six injured have been taken to the hospital. "Two of them are in serious condition. Unfortunately, one person has died."

Grenade Hurled

*OW0302110292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1038 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commandant of Tbilisi Gela Lanchava told journalists that the fire in front of the circus building on Sunday [2 February] was opened [as received] by supporters of Gamsakhurdia. Two guards were wounded. He also said that a grenade which luckily did not explode was hurled at the guards from the crowd.

According to the Georgian Health Ministry, one person was killed and 20 wounded during the Sunday clashes between supporters of Gamsakhurdia and the law-enforcement forces.

Gela Lanchava also said that on the same day, the armed supporters of the ex-president attacked a district police station. The attack was rebuffed and the attackers disarmed.

Meanwhile, the Georgian parliament's faction Charter-91 which opposed the ruling alliance, Round Table—Free Georgia, announced following the Sunday incident that the republic was on the verge of civil war.

This faction's statement, published on February 3, urges the provisional government and the Military Council to disband themselves and, pending the election of a new parliament, to hand authority to the law-enforcement bodies. This will help stabilize the situation, the statement reads.

The faction, Charter-91, also believes that Georgia needed to hold a referendum on the forms of government and parliamentary elections not later than May or June.

35 Injured; 2 Dead

*LD0302115892 Moscow TASS in English
1142 GMT 3 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 3 TASS—Two people died on Monday [3 February], after receiving heavy wounds in Sunday riots in Tbilisi, according to official data of the republican Health Ministry.

A total of 35 people were injured in clashes between supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and police on February 2. Five of them remain in grave conditions.

Reinstatement Demanded in Poti

*OW3101141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in western Georgia remains tense, IF [INTERFAX] was told at the press center of the Military Council. Railway communication with Poti has again been broken because Gamsakhurdia loyalists dismantled railway tracks on the outskirts of the city on Friday [31 January] night. Shots were heard in the suburbs, but no casualties have been reported so far. Supporters of the ousted president continue to hold rallies in the town demanding that Gamsakhurdia be reinstated. There is still a television blackout in Poti, and no newspapers come out. In Zugdidi, the situation was quite normal on January 29 and 30, Georgy Karkarashvili, the Military Council's representative in the town, said. On Friday morning, guardsmen and members of local vigilance groups began to jointly patrol the streets. On Thursday [30 January], the provisional government's supporters held a rally in Zugdidi. The center of confrontation has shifted to Abkhazia, in particular, to the Sukhumi and Ulripsh districts where Gamsakhurdia's supporters were reportedly gathering on Thursday. Participants in pro-Gamsakhurdia rallies and demonstrations have called for civil disobedience.

IF has been told at the press-center of the Georgian interior ministry that the Georgian government is to issue an amnesty decree in the next few days, applying to women, teenagers, disabled persons and those serving light sentences.

Supporters Cross Abkhaz Border

*LD0102195892 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to reports from western Georgia, guerrilla warfare is being waged there. There are exchanges of fire and terrorist acts being carried out by both sides. The situation in western Georgia is complicated by the fact that supporters of the provisional government have crossed the Abkhazia border.

Abkhazia Not Gamsakhurdia Stronghold

*LD0302031692 Moscow TASS in English
1543 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Voronyuk]

[Text] Tbilisi January 31 (TASS)—Abkhazia, an autonomous republic inside Georgia, will not become a stronghold of supporters of ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Abkhazian parliamentary speaker Vladislav Ardzinba told TASS by telephone on Friday [31 January].

The local leadership will do its utmost to prevent the spread into Abkhazia of the conflict between Gamsakhurdia's supporters and the troops of the new provisional government, he added.

According to Ardzinba, the airport in Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, is functioning normally and railway traffic will resume as soon as the track is repaired in the city of Zugdidi.

Routes Still Blocked

LD0302043692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1600 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Western Georgia has fully restored freight and passenger traffic on its territory, but supporters of ousted President Gamsakhurdia are still blocking traffic routes in Abkhazia. The first train that has made it from the port city of Poti on the coast of the Black Sea to the Georgian capital Tbilisi carried 3,000 tons of wheat. For a few weeks armed supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia blocked Poti.

'Warming Relations' With S. Ossetia Noted

Calm in Tskhinvali

LD3101223492 Moscow TASS in English
1743 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvrtishviliy and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 31 TASS—Electricity supplies have partially resumed in Tskhinvali, Southern Ossetia. Flour deliveries have improved as well. The city water supply is operating.

Signs of warming relations between the Georgian and Ossetian sides are evident—the region has been in severe economic blockade for almost a year.

It was calm on Thursday [30 January] in Tskhinvali, no shooting was reported.

Stabilization Tops Agenda

LD0202123192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] The sociopolitical situation in South Ossetia is returning to stability. Exchanges of fire between the

opposing sides have ceased even in the region's most crisis-hit zones—the outskirts of Tskhinvali and settlements in Znaurskiy rayon. Only in the outlying villages of Goriyskiy rayon has sporadic gunfire been heard, but there are no reports of casualties. According to observers, this relative calm is due to real progress by the Georgian and Ossetian sides toward constructive dialogue.

According to Alan Chochiyev, deputy chairman of the South Ossetian Republic's Supreme Soviet, stabilization has been on the top of the agenda for parliamentarians from South and North Ossetia. The parliamentarians have been meeting in Tskhinvali.

Participants stated that the outstanding problem is that of refugees from South Ossetia and regions within Georgia with large Ossetian communities. The republics are finding it very difficult to accommodate them and supply them with necessities.

'Ready To Hold Talks'

LD0302103592 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0945 GMT 3 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 3 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The leadership of South Ossetia is ready to hold talks with plenipotentiary spokesmen of the provisional government of Georgia, Rezo Khugayev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian Republic, said today. But the preliminary conditions of the Ossetian side are these: The armed confrontation between the opposing sides should cease immediately in South Ossetia; Tskhinvali should be freed from economic isolation; the blockade of all main transportation arteries should be lifted; and the 100,000 refugees who are now in North Ossetia should be returned to their native places.

According to Rezo Khugayev, the democratic changes in all spheres of Georgia's life so far are having an insignificant effect upon the situation in the region. In any event, rocket and artillery fire is no longer raining down upon settlements and punitive acts by guerrillas against peaceful inhabitants have ceased.

However, the provisional government of Georgia, which is occupied with its own internal problems, is not in a hurry to lift the economic, transportation, and food blockade of Tskhinvali.

ITAR-TASS has learned from reliable sources that a special commission has been set up under the military council of Georgia which intends to hold talks with the Government of the South Ossetian Republic.

Estonia**Troop Withdrawal Negotiations Begin in Tallinn****Initial Information Given**

*LD0202174392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1341 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Text] We have an urgent telephone call from Tallinn. Talks were held there today between Russian and Estonian delegations on the subject of the withdrawal of the army subunits of the former Soviet Union from Estonia. Here is our correspondent Heimar Lenk on the line from Tallinn:

[Lenk] Hello there. Good day. Compared with similar talks in Lithuania and Latvia, the Tallinn talks have proved briefer given that the new government in Estonia has not yet been fully able to appoint its delegation. Today the delegations were headed on the Estonian side by Minister of Foreign Affairs Lennart Meri, and on the Russian by Vice Premier Sergey Shakhrai.

The principles governing the approach to the issue are the same as the Russian delegation applied in Lithuania and Latvia, Vice Premier Shakhrai told journalists. He continued: We are willing to seek a way out of the existing situation and to tackle the question of the pull-out of Armed Forces on a planned and organized basis, while observing all the requirements without which such a withdrawal would be dangerous. There is the security of the Estonian Republic [words indistinct]. There is the security of the Russian Federation. There is the issue of the social protection of servicemen. There is the social protection of former servicemen. There is the problem of providing proper conditions for servicemen. And also, detailed stock needs to be taken of various military installations.

We set out the positions of each republic, Vice Premier Shakhrai said, and agreed that experts would start work without delay. After all, a state on whose territory there are very large contingents of armed forces belonging to another state cannot feel safe and secure.

It was agreed today that the process will start in the near future. Specific aspects relating to the start of the withdrawal will be agreed at expert level and confirmed at the level of political leaders. That is the initial information I have.

Army Property Claimed

*OW0202182892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1645 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During talks with Russia, Estonia is going to demand that the troops which are withdrawn leave behind all their real and movable property, including light recoilless weapons. Estonia also lays claim to some of the vessels of the Baltic Fleet, although so far these

claims have not been presented formally. This is what has been disclosed by Mr Toomas Puura, head of the State Chancery's department for defence matters, in an interview to a BALTFAX correspondent. He said that this property is needed by Estonia's military. The law on defence service has introduced compulsory military service in the republic. Mr Puura estimates that by the end of the year, 2,000 Estonians will be serving in various army units and as border guards.

Mr Puura also noted that the ex-Soviet servicemen currently stationed in Estonia abide by the republic's legislation, and their commanding officers [words indistinct] relations with local civilian authorities. According to Estonia's data, around 23,000 servicemen that have recently come under Russia's jurisdiction are now stationed on the republic's territory, whereas last August there were 36,000 Soviet officers and non-commissioned personnel there. This means that the pullout has already begun, Mr Puura stressed. Estonia is currently worried when it will end.

Consensus Reached

*LD0202214992 Moscow TASS in English
2128 GMT 2 Feb 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandra Budris]

[Text] Tallinn February 3 [dateline as received]—Russia and Estonia have reached a consensus about the need for prompt decision at intergovernmental level and through embassies of acute problems connected with the withdrawal of Armed Forces of the former USSR from the Estonian Republic.

This is said in a press release issued in Tallinn on Sunday [2 February] about a meeting of a state delegation of the Russian Federation with Estonian leaders.

The delegation headed by Sergey Shakhrai, deputy chairman of the Russian Government and state adviser for legal matters, met with president of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Government Tiit Vahi, Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Julo Nurgis and Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri.

A range of questions related to the withdrawal from the Estonian territory of forces of the former USSR that are under jurisdiction of the Russian Federation was discussed at the meeting.

The press release says the Russian side emphasised that questions of armed forces withdrawal will be decided with full respect for independence and state sovereignty of the Estonian Republic, strict observance of its laws and of agreements between Russia and Estonia. In its turn, the Estonian side confirmed understanding for interests of the Russian Federation involved in the withdrawal of armed forces from the Estonian territory.

The sides discussed a number of factors influencing troop withdrawal, including the strengthening of stability in Northern Europe, ensurance of the interests of national security of Russia and Estonia, as well as the need for social protection for servicemen and their families.

The striving to keep from uncoordinated unilateral actions connected with troop withdrawal was also confirmed. The sides agreed to form groups of experts to draft an appropriate agreement.

The sides discussed matters of opening the embassy of the Russian Federation in the Estonian Republic.

Premier Stresses 'More Realistic' Program

OW0102001892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1501 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's new Premier Tiit Vahi has said in parliament that the new republican government's economic policy "should be more realistic and less optimistic." Describing his economic program, Mr. Vahi suggested that more attention should be paid to the republic's internal resources. He said Estonia should orient its trade towards places "promising higher profits and smaller expenses." The premier expressed confidence that Estonia's economic contacts with Russia would improve once both countries became fully independent. On the new cabinet's agrarian policy, Mr. Vahi said he did not support the idea of continuing to maintain collective or state farms, but that he did not intend "to launch a reform for the reform's sake," either. Commenting on the performance of the previous government, the new premier observed that Mr. Savisaar's cabinet "set correct targets."

Latvia

Riga, Russia Issue Communique on Troop Talks

LD0202190292 Riga Radio Riga Network
in Latvian 0600 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Communique on talks between the state delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Latvia, signed in Riga on 1 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with a prior agreement, talks took place in Riga between the state delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on 1 February 1992. The delegations were led by Latvian Minister of State Janis Dinevics, and Sergey Shakhrai, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government and state counsellor on legislative questions. A range of questions was discussed pertaining to the complete withdrawal of units of the former USSR Armed Forces, under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, from the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

During the talks the two sides expressed their resolution to develop equal and mutually beneficial neighborly relations between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation, corresponding to the principles of the UN statutes and other norms generally acknowledged in international relations; to observe strictly the obligations incumbent on them in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the corresponding conclusions reached on the bases for interstate relations in the treaty between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation.

The two sides affirmed their readiness to settle the complex of all military-political, economic, humanitarian, and other questions, bearing in mind that mutual agreement on these questions will be realized in conjunction with measures aimed at security and confidence in Europe, and the constructive cooperation of Latvia and Russia in the future development of the European process. The delegation of the Russian Federation stressed that the question of the Armed Forces' withdrawal will be settled while observing the independence and state sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia, as well as its laws and the treaties of both sides. The Latvian delegation expressed its readiness to observe the interests of the Russian Federation connected with the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from the territory of Latvia. Moreover, the two sides agreed that the Armed Forces are to be regarded as foreign military forces which are to be withdrawn from the territory of another sovereign state.

Agreement was reached on the withdrawal of Armed Forces stationed on the territory of the Republic of Latvia starting from March 1992, without increasing their numerical composition. The sides agreed that the talks that had taken place are to be regarded as a commencement of the work on a treaty between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on the stipulations, schedules, and order for the planned withdrawal of the Armed Forces and Navy from the territory of Latvia, and the regulation of relations during this period.

The two sides discussed the principles to be observed in the formation of this treaty. They agreed that the schedule, order, and phases of the withdrawal are to be related to a series of objective factors: First, those such as the interests of the national security of Latvia and Russia, as well as the guarantees of social protection of military personnel and their family members. The two sides agreed that the social protection of pensioners in the Armed Forces are to be regulated in talks in the near future.

The two sides agreed to refrain from unilateral uncoordinated action during the period of withdrawal of the Armed Forces. The two sides agreed on the formation of a working group of experts for the preparation of the mentioned draft treaty; the delegations may discuss this in the nearest future.

The Russian side recognizes the right of the Republic of Latvia to property, to buildings and structures erected up to 17 June 1940 and currently in use by the Armed Forces. Agreement was reached that the Russian side will regularly inform the Latvian side on the numerical composition of the Armed Forces stationed on the territory of the Republic of Latvia. The two sides' agreement was affirmed on the operative settlement of those most urgent questions connected with provisions for the Armed Forces stationed on the territory of Latvia, as well as the necessity for discussing the principles of mutual accounting. The two sides agreed that they will determine a procedure for inspection work: Inspectors will be designated, and on the basis of mutual agreement, they will conduct an inspection at sites occupied by forces to be withdrawn from the territory of Latvia.

Agreement was reached that the two sides will cooperate on questions of environmental protection. The scale of the environmental losses incurred by the forces' activity is to be determined by mutually agreed methods. The two sides intend to discuss the stipulations on the basis of which the Russian Federation will hand over to the Republic of Latvia a specific amount and form of arms, military equipment, and munitions.

The two sides also discussed the question of opening an embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Latvia.

The communique was signed in the name of the Republic of Latvia by Janis Dinevics and in that of Russia by Sergey Shakhrai.

Riga Signs Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

*LD0302043592 Riga Radio Riga Network
in Latvian 2000 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs has signed a resolution on the republic joining the international treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons of 1 July 1968. The resolution was adopted by the Supreme Council on 21 January.

China Protests New Relations With Taiwan

*LD0102113192 Riga Radio Riga Network
in Latvian 1000 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] The People's Republic of China has expressed a categorical protest to the Republic of Latvia in connection with Latvia establishing consular relations with Taiwan. On 31 January China's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that Latvia has transgressed its promise made last year in the joint communique on establishing diplomatic relations with China. On 29 January Latvia signed a joint statement on establishing consular relations with Taiwan.

Lithuania

Vilnius, Russia Communique on Troop Talks

*LD0102103792 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0828 GMT 1 Feb 92*

[Text] Vilnius, 1 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A communique on the working meeting of state delegations from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Lithuania has been circulated here. It says:

In accordance with an agreement reached at a working meeting between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, a working meeting was held in Vilnius on 31 January 1992 between a state delegation from the Russian Federation, led by Sergey Shakhrai, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government and state counsellor for legal affairs, and a state delegation from the Republic of Lithuania, led by Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council. A range of issues was discussed concerning the withdrawal from Lithuania of units of the Armed Forces of the former USSR, which are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

In the course of a sincere and constructive dialogue, the sides confirmed their determination to develop good-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with equal rights between the Russian Federation and the Lithuanian Republic in accordance with the principles of UN regulations and other generally recognized norms of international rights, strictly following the obligations taken within the CSCE framework, and in accordance with statutes of the treaty on the foundations of interstate relations between the Russian Federation and the Lithuanian Republic. The sides stressed that the ratification of this treaty raises the relations between the two states to a qualitatively new level and lays the international legal foundation for further interstate talks on military, political, economic, humanitarian, and other issues under consideration. It also creates good preconditions for Russian and Lithuanian constructive participation in the further development of the pan-European process and for the strengthening of stability and cooperation in Europe and the world.

The Russian delegation stressed that the troop withdrawal issues will be tackled with respect for the independence and state sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania and with strict observance of its laws and the agreements between the parties. The Lithuanian side expressed readiness to respect the interests of the Russian Federation related to the troop withdrawal from the territory of Lithuania.

The parties arranged to embark without delay on drawing up an agreement on the orderly withdrawal of the troops, which will define the timeframe and procedures for the withdrawal and the legal position in the transitional period up to the point of withdrawal. The parties agreed to regard the present meeting as the

beginning of negotiations on drawing up that agreement. The parties noted the existence of factors influencing the duration and timetable of the troop withdrawal, including the factors influencing the security of the Republic of Lithuania and the social protection of the servicemen. The sides agreed to take these factors into account when considering the issues involved with the troop withdrawal. The parties came to an understanding that the withdrawal from Lithuania of troops under Russian jurisdiction will contribute toward ensuring security and strategic stability on the European continent and the world.

Agreement was reached on the start of the withdrawal of military subunits from the territory of the Lithuanian Republic in February 1992.

Agreement of the sides on the solution of the most acute issues connected with efficiently supplying the military units on the territory of Lithuania was confirmed.

The sides intend to discuss terms for the handing over by the Russian Federation of a certain quantity and certain kinds of weapons, military hardware, and ammunition in order to equip the Lithuanian Republic's subunits for the protection of the country.

The sides agreed that they would define an inspection procedure, appoint inspectors, and carry out inspections—on a bilateral basis—of facilities on the territory of the Lithuanian Republic occupied by the troops being withdrawn.

The sides agreed on the setting up of expert groups needed to prepare an agreement and arranged that these groups would start work in Vilnius on 10 February 1992.

The communique was signed by Sergey Shakhrai and Česlovas Stankevičius.

Leaders Comment on Talks

LD0102105992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting between the state delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Lithuania on the withdrawal of the units of the former Soviet Army, now under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, ended last night at Draugyste Hotel in Vilnius. Correspondent Zenonas Miksys reports:

[Begin recording] [Miksys] The greatest possible patience at Draugyste Hotel's conference hall, where this important meeting between the two delegations took place, was demonstrated by Lithuanian and Russian journalists. We waited at the door for more than eight hours. Commanders of the Northwestern Army Group, commanders of the Baltic Fleet, and advisers and experts, accompanied by aides-de-camp, long ago said goodbye, but we waited and waited. One, two, three, four breaks, the editing of the final communique, corrections, again to the computer, again corrections—all this took

many hours. However, the promised and expected news conference took place, although improvised and brief.

Audrius Azubalis, press attache of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, presented the heads of the delegations: Sergey Shakhrai, deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation and state adviser on legal policy; and Česlovas Stankevičius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council.

[Shakhrai, in Russian] We have carried out very prolonged work, but the length was caused not by the number of problems or the difficulty of overcoming them, but by the fact that we quickly elucidated the political stands of the sides and switched to concrete tasks. We worked so well on these aspects that we decided to prolong this process [word indistinct]. Today is 1 February, the start of the month that figures in our communique. We stated that this date is the beginning of the process of the withdrawal of the Army under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. We proceed from the fact that this will be a contribution by our states to the cause of European security and strategic stability. The most important thing, as we see it, is that we demonstrated once again that we can and want to reach an agreement.

[Stankevičius, in Russian] Journalists had to wait for a long time until we prepared the text of the communique. Unfortunately, we cannot produce it; it is being typed. You will be able to obtain it later and see the problems we discussed and the principal clauses we stated in the communique. I would like to stress that we agreed that today's meeting is the beginning of the common work of our delegations on the future agreement on the withdrawal of the troops of the former Soviet Union which are now under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. Such an agreement will be prepared and signed. We think that the solution of the issue concerning the troop withdrawal from our territory will serve the common cause of security in Europe and the world. I also evaluate as important the decision we reached that the beginning of the withdrawal of troops from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania will be in February of this year; that is, the month that starts today. Other important evaluations and principles in the opinion of both delegations, and the outlined solutions of the problems, are also stated in the communique. Speaking for myself and our delegation, today's work was useful and represents a good start to the solution of this problem.

[Shakhrai] I would like to add a few words. We agreed that the experts of our delegations will start work on 10 February on the concrete text of the agreement. In my opinion, we have defined an important clause noting that there are objective factors influencing the speed of the solution of the withdrawal problem. There are factors that can speed up the solution of the withdrawal problems. We also recorded these. One is ensuring the security of the Lithuanian state. Unfortunately, there are also factors delaying the solution of these processes. One of

these is the solution of social problems. We found an understanding to seek an agreement in this sphere.

[Stankevicius] We think that today we added a small step to the first step made in the meeting between Mr. Landsbergis and President Yeltsin.

[Unidentified speaker] Now one question each. To the guest at first [words indistinct] the withdrawal of troops—is it [words indistinct] February?

[Shakhray] It is February.

[Question indistinct]

[Shakhray] This problem was discussed. We confirmed that we will seek and will find. We talked about it. There are [word indistinct] that the withdrawal of troops from the capital is an important aspect of solving this problem.

[Stankevicius] We had in mind that the communique signed by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Landsbergis states the priority of the withdrawal of troops from the capital. [sentence indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Shakhray] We endeavor to build law-abiding states; therefore, we discussed only what we could discuss. Unfortunately, border troops are not now under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. As you know, there is an agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States. We have raised this problem and we are going to solve it during negotiations. At present we did not discuss any concrete [word indistinct] in this issue.

[Question indistinct]

[Shakhray] No date was mentioned. We consider that on 10 February the experts will meet and will discuss the date.

[Question indistinct]

[Shakhray] [passage indistinct] It is too early to speak about the obligations of the Lithuanian and the Russian sides. [passage indistinct]

[Stankevicius] [passage indistinct] The Lithuanian side has no obligations in the financing or any other problems of the troop withdrawal. However, if it is necessary, for instance, to include Lithuanian building organizations to implement these problems, we will examine these issues, such as the question of some contract work.

[Unidentified speaker] Thank you for your replies. Thank you for your questions.

[Miksys, in Lithuanian] It was 0145 when the heads of the Russian and Lithuanian delegations signed a communique on the working meeting of the delegations in Vilnius. This morning the Russian Federation delegation left, on the same mission, for Riga, the capital of the Republic of Latvia. [end recording]

Government Claims Soviet Military Equipment

OW0202183092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1645 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's government has requested that that part of military hardware of the ex-Soviet troops being withdrawn from its territory which was built at its expense be handed over to Lithuania. A statement to this effect was issued on February 1.

The document also points out that the government is aware of the social problems encountered by servicemen and their dependents either as a result of troop withdrawals or retirement, and is looking for funds both within the country and abroad to help them. However, the republic's authorities believe that this should primarily be the care of the USSR's legitimate successors.

In the meantime, the statement says, Lithuania's Border Defence and Interior Ministries have been charged with clarifying the social status of retiring servicemen and their families. These same ministries are responsible for control over observance by the servicemen from the units being withdrawn of Lithuania's legislation.

Nuclear Power Station Shuts Down Reactor

OW0102011192 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1930 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] One of Ignalina power station's two reactors was shut down at 6 P.M. on January 30 when a draining pipe of the emergency cooling system burst, Lithuania's news agency ELTA reports. There was no other damage. Repair work is expected to take until February 8.

The government's Information Bureau says that earlier it had been found out that a member of the power station's personnel was "deliberately trying to create a dangerous situation". The man who "is suspected of having tried to carry out an act of sabotage" has been detained. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against him. The case is being investigated by the republic's procuracy and police.

A BALTFAX correspondent was told at the power station's public relations section that the name of the detainee is Oleg Savchuk and that he had been searching information in the "6 Avtomatika" information program which is used by the reactor's operators.

However, a BALTFAX correspondent in Vilnius explains that the reactor's shutdown has nothing to do with Mr. Savchuk's actions.

Computer Virus Used

*LD3101134992 Warsaw PAP in English
1226 GMT 31 Jan 92*

[Text] Bialystok, Jan. 31—A local radio station in Bialystok, north-eastern Poland, Friday [31 January] reported on an act of subversion revealed in a nuclear power plant in the Lithuanian town of Snieczkus several days ago.

According the report, one of the technicians deliberately infected the plant's computer with a virus to destroy its programme and cause a catastrophe similar to the Chernobyl fallout.

Lithuanian authorities have said that fortunately the saboteur, who was arrested, only managed to destroy the programme controlling peripheral equipment. The authorities added that the offence was politically motivated, the radio reported.

The nuclear plant is situated about 220 kilometres from Poland's north-eastern border.